

crossroads

MSSU Alumni Publication Fall 2014



Excellent HONOR

Missouri Southern dedicates
Health Sciences Building for
former president, Dr. León.

Plus...

Homecoming '14

Alumni Features

Lion Sports

And more!

crossroads contents



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President Dr. Alan Marble, '79, greets former Missouri Southern President Dr. Julio S. León, who returned to campus in April and August to receive a special honor. Please turn to Page 25 to read more. Photo by Curtis Almeter, '13; photo illustration by Taylor Kubicek, '15.

Greetings,

While dealing with the challenges of the present, we should respectfully honor the roads we've traveled to reach the heights we've achieved. Building on past successes and traditions at Missouri Southern is a fundamental reason our university has continued to flourish for more than 75 years. This year, we had the honor of having former Missouri Southern President Dr. Julio León and his wife, Vivian, return to campus on two occasions.



The first was a tribute dinner on April 26 — a chance for the campus community to honor the Leóns, who played such an integral role in our university's growth and success during their years here. During the dinner, it was announced that the Health Sciences Building would be dedicated as the Julio S. León Health Sciences Center. The Leóns returned to campus again on August 27 for the building's formal dedication.

This fall, we also celebrated the legacy of Robert Corn — the most successful men's basketball coach in our university's history — by naming the floor of the basketball court in the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center after him.

Even as we looked back to celebrate the accomplishments of those who have given so much to our university, we've also continued to chart a path for our future.

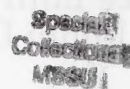
This year, Southern added two new master's degree programs and ground was broken on the new residence hall complex, the fieldhouse at the Plaster Sports Complex, and a new baseball stadium. We are also working on a plan to update Reynolds Hall to accommodate the growing demand for STEM-related courses.

As president of Missouri Southern State University, I take great pride in how far we've come over the years and where we are today, and I eagerly look forward to what lies ahead for this great institution.

Warm wishes to you and your loved ones,

Alan D. Marble

Alan Marble, '79, Ph.D.
MSSU President



Dear alumni and friends,

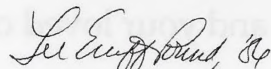
What a wonderful fall semester! We kicked off the year with a new tradition for incoming freshmen: "Pennies for the Pride." Each freshman is given a penny to throw in the Dennis Weaver Memorial Fountain at the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center after Freshmen Convocation, which is held each year the Sunday before the fall semester begins. This encourages freshmen to walk to the Alumni Center, make a wish for the year and toss in their pennies. It also signifies their first contribution to Missouri Southern.

"Dress for Success" begins in spring 2015. The Alumni Association, along with MSSU Career Services, Joplin's Young Professionals Network and Carthage Emerging Leaders will help students look sharp and prepare for their first job interview. This program will accept gently used professional clothing and monetary donations earmarked to help our young alums launch their careers.

And, new for spring, will be an Alumni Scholarship Fundraising Dinner, scheduled for April 7. The dinner will feature fun table displays and "hosts" for decorations, along with a fashion show, dinner and silent auction.

Thanks for keeping us your "connection for life."

In Lion Pride,



Lee Elliff Pound, '86,
Alumni Director



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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

crossroads magazine is the official alumni publication of the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association. The mission is to serve its readers by providing information of interest about the University, its alumni and the Alumni Association and by acting as a channel for Missouri Southern alumni as a "connection for life" with the University.

crossroads magazine is published two times a year by the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association and the Department of Communication. It is mailed to current MSSU Alumni Association members and friends of the University. A select number of copies are distributed on campus each semester.

crossroads is written and designed by faculty, staff, students and alumni. The views expressed do not represent the student body, faculty, staff, administration or Missouri Southern State University.

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Molly Schons, '15
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Greetings, alumni and friends!

We try to keep our readers informed about alumni and life on campus, and one form is with our online version of **crossroads**. This delivery gives you all of the magazine content, but it also provides clickable reading with links throughout the text.

For the first time since we started publishing online in spring 2010, our Web readers now prefer to learn about their alma mater via mobile devices instead of desktop computers. This is a reflection of our society's need to keep informed while on the go. We truly are a global publication, as our online statistics show that our past readers come from every continent, well, except Antarctica!

We hope you enjoy this issue, again produced primarily by communication students. For the fourth straight year, the **crossroads** staff was rewarded for its efforts, receiving five MarCom Gold Awards from the Association of Marketing and Communicators Association. This fall, the magazine won Gold twice for overall magazine and twice for writing for the fall 2013 and spring 2014 issues and one Gold for photography in the fall 2013 issue.

I am so thankful for the students and so many others who help make this magazine a great public relations piece for our university and my alma mater. Thanks for reading!

Warm regards,

Rhonda Clark, '00,
crossroads Editor,
Assistant Professor, Communication

Since its first entry in 2011,
crossroads
has been a consistent winner
of the MarCom Award
for four years in a row!



Find us online at:
www.issuu.com/crossroadsmssu/docs/crfall14

MSSU honors donors through mural

Donors make so many things possible for the students at Missouri Southern that we can never thank them enough. One way we try, however, is to share their names on our donor wall.



For many years, the donor wall was located in the curved staircase at one end of Billingsly Student Center. It was a lovely staircase and a nice place to display the names of members of the Southern Lantern Society and the Legacy Society.

When Billingsly was renovated, however, to add the Beimdiek Recreation Center and the Willcoxon Health Center, the wall was displaced. The plaques were moved to a new wall on the third floor outside of Connor Ballroom, but it wasn't the same.

A task force was formed from members of the Missouri Southern Foundation Board of Directors and members of the development team. After much research and deliberation, it was decided to stay with the location outside of the ballroom but to enhance the wall greatly.

The result was a custom tile mural created by Images in Tile. The mural covers the entire wall and features glass plaques with donor names. Images in Tile is a Joplin-based company that is the leading manufacturer of tile murals using ceramic, porcelain, stone and glass tile. The company has several ties to MSSU, including Sam Sturgis, president and director of sales and marketing for the company, who graduated from Southern in 2006 with a degree in marketing management, and graphic designer Jon White, who graduated in 2008 with a marketing degree,

as well as an intern who is a current student.

Two giving societies are represented on the wall. The first is the Lantern Society. Membership in this society is based on cumulative giving over time and it is broken into two broad categories: individuals and organizations. Within those categories they are also broken into levels of giving. These names will change annually as donors continue to support Southern's efforts to provide opportunities for students to pursue their dreams. Each fall, the names will be updated based on contributions made in the previous fiscal year.

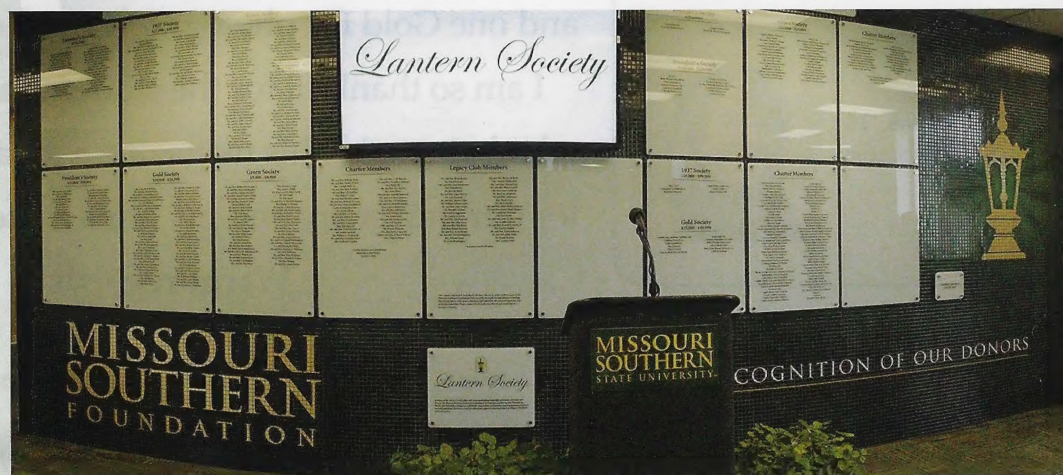
Another plaque represents the Legacy Society. These are donors who have made a planned gift. They have chosen to leave a legacy through means such as remembering us in their wills and life insurance policies.

In addition to the names listed on the wall, a TV monitor is mounted in the center. This shows a series of photos and videos about some of the wonderful gifts our donors have provided. This, too, will change over time.

To celebrate donors and the hard work that went into honoring them, a dedication ceremony for the Southern Lantern Society donor wall was held last summer with many members of the Southern family in attendance.

The next time you're in Billingsly Student Center, please take a moment to see the wall. As you read through the names of the many donors, you'll probably see some people you know. The next time you see them, please thank them for all they've done to help our students achieve their dreams.

— JoAnn Graffam, '87, Vice President for Development and Executive Director, Missouri Southern Foundation



The donor wall is on the third floor of the Billingsly Student Center outside the Connor Ballroom. It was dedicated this past summer and honors both the Lantern Society and Legacy Society. — Photo by Ashley Eriksen, '12

Your 2015 Italian adventure awaits

Nearly five years in the making, the Southern Safari is finally ready to make its first voyage.



Participants won't be going on an African safari, but rather a 12-day tour of Italy in June 2015. Sponsored by the Institute of International Studies in conjunction with GalaxSea Cruises & Tours of Neosho, Missouri, the trip will

feature four nights in Rome, four nights in Florence and three nights in Venice.

The adventure is open to anyone — alumni, friends of MSSU, retired faculty and staff — anyone with a desire to see the world and experience new cultures firsthand.

Dr. Nanette Philibert, chair of the MSSU Department of Management, Marketing and International Business, and I will be leading the June 6-18 trip with support from local tour guides and assistants. This will be Dr. Philibert's ninth trip to Italy.

"The art, history and culture draw me back every year," she said. "I've spent summers on archaeological digs in the south, and taken language, pottery and cooking lessons in Tuscany. Italy never ceases to amaze me. The food, wine and scenery are beyond compare. I love to sink into the slower pace of life and relish the sublime food, wine and scenery."

Cost is \$4,259 per person for double occupancy; \$4,959 for a single. We are limited to just 42 passengers; the reservation cutoff deadline is January 15, 2015, assuming that space still remains.

Rome highlights include a half-day sightseeing tour of the Vatican, including the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica, and the famous Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps. Participants will enjoy a full day of touring through the Umbria and Tuscany regions with stops at St. Francis of Assisi Basilica and Perugia on the way to Florence.

In Florence, we'll see the Cathedral of Santa Maria dei Fiore (Duomo), Giotto's Bell Tower, Brunelleschi's famous dome, and the Galleria dell'Accademia (Michelangelo's famous statue of David). A full-day tour into Tuscany with stops in Siena and San Gimignano, the medieval "City of Beautiful Towers," will round out the experience in north-central Italy.

Following a free day in Florence on June 14, the group will travel to Venice with a stop



The Institute of International Studies will host an excursion to Italy, which includes visits to seven cities. Cities marked with a green square or star are where the tour group will spend the night. Cities marked with yellow diamonds are scheduled stops.

in Ravenna — home to eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites — along the way. Visits to the Doge's Palace and St. Mark's Basilica and the opportunity to ride the Vaporetto water taxi will top the experiences in Venice.

Several orientation sessions before the trip will prepare participants for their Italian adventure. Dr. Bill Kumbier, a professor of English and philosophy, will give presentations on Dante and Florence and on Shakespeare's Italian "connection." Dr. Philibert will provide travel tips and share her experiences from her eight trips to Italy.

This extensive orientation will set Southern Safari apart from other commercial trips, where participants often board the plane without any prior knowledge of where they are going. We will tap faculty expertise every year, depending on the destination, to make the experience that much more rewarding.

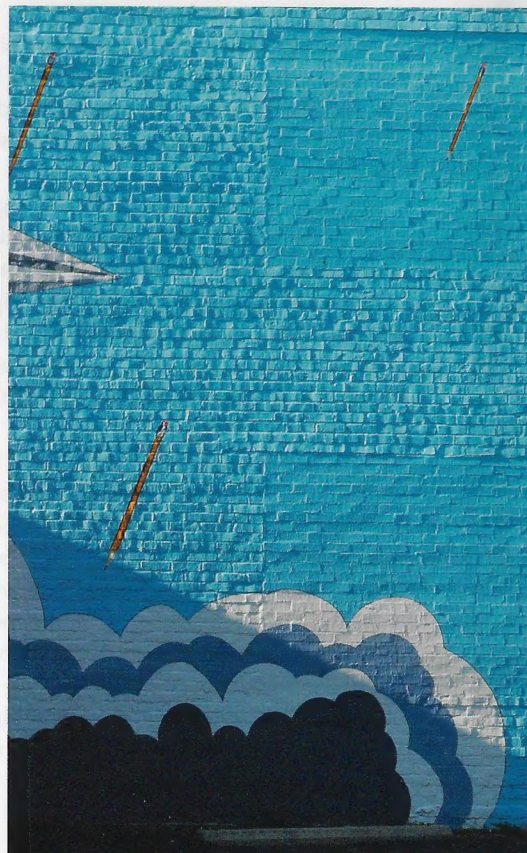
Please visit www.mssu.edu/safari for more details about the Southern Safari trip to Italy.

— Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82, Director,
Institute of International Studies

UDBL SPACES

Southern faculty, students, alumni
contribute to beautifying
downtown districts in Joplin area.

Story compiled by Annie Clarkson, '16

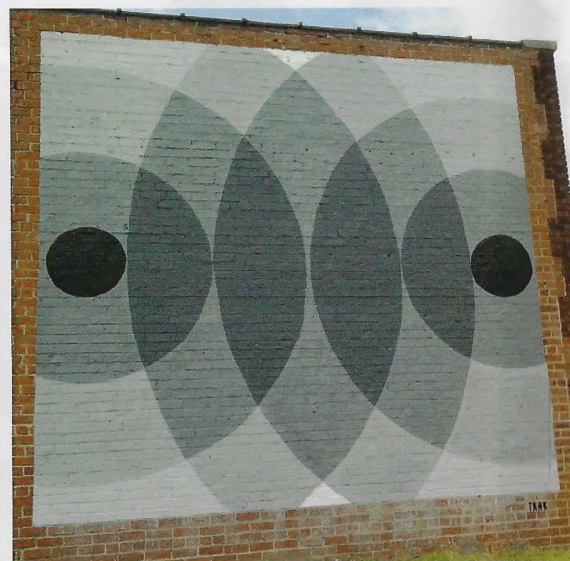




Top left, Jordan Murdock, '12, stands inside the pedestrian tunnel on the Missouri Southern campus. She designed both sides of the tunnel walls, which includes the saying by Mahatma Ghandi: "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Center left, Murdock and Kyle McKenzie, adjunct instructor of art, blend into the scenery depicting the Farmer's Market in the mural on the corner of Madison and Broadway streets in Webb City, Missouri.

Left, the paper airplane and pencil mural at Fifth Street and Wall Avenue in Joplin, Missouri, dwarfs its artist, Taylor Kubicek, senior art major and fall 2014 Crossroads art director. — Photos by Willie Brown, '15



Above, Kubicek (left), Shaun Conroy, '12, and Oliver Zerkel, '11, designed and led a Tank Group project of three murals: Spiva Art Center, Third Street and Wall Avenue in Joplin; Sixth Street and Virginia Avenue (above right); and Seventh Street and Wall Avenue (right). The Tank is a volunteer group dedicated to the public arts. The three murals pictured were designed to be nonrepresentational optical displays of geometry. The murals were created between the fall of 2013 and the summer of 2014. — Photos by Willie Brown, '15



Above, Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce members join Southern's Burt Bucher (center), associate professor of art; Trisha Patton, Downtown Joplin Alliance director; and Dr. Alan Marble, '79, university president, along with other volunteers who helped with Bucher's design, "Joplin Gateway Mural" (right) at B and Main streets. Others pictured, from left: Southern's Registrar Cheryl Dobson, Kayla Pekarek, Joplin Mayor Mike Seibert, Alicia Edens, Stephanie Onstot, Linda Teeter, Tammy Mitchell, Andy Queen and Rick Keller.

— Photos by Molly Schons, '15

All Business

Her vision to open her own firm became a reality thanks to efforts and advice from a few instructors.



Krystal Russell, '00

Former dean for the Robert W. Plaster School of Business, Jim Gray, took Krystal Russell, '00, under his wing and began guiding her through the world of business.

"How can I get a job?" Russell asked Gray, who was the dean at Missouri Southern when she was a student.

"I remember as a freshman, Dean Gray told me if I needed anything to ask," said Russell. "So as I was starting to look for a job, I went in there and asked him."

Russell began work in the Small Business Development Center doing countless jobs throughout the school of business. She became interested in entrepreneurialism and developed a passion for helping others.

Upon receiving her bachelor's in accounting in 2000 and then earning a law degree from Creighton University in 2003, Russell picked up different jobs in accounting. She and her husband owned and managed Video Mart in Mt. Vernon, Missouri. She was an accountant at two different companies before opening her own firm in May 2009 in Springfield, Missouri.

Her firm, Spectrum Accounting,

To find out more about Krystal Russell and her business Spectrum Accounting, visit the website at www.fullspectrumaccounting.com

provides personal financial guidance to individuals and businesses.

"My passion for helping others as well as my knowledge with payroll helped me to start my business," said Russell.

In addition to financial guidance with Spectrum Accounting, Russell also offers payroll assistance through Payroll Vault-Springfield to further the customer service and one-on-one client relationship experience.

"It's a good complement to Spectrum," said Russell.

Payroll Vault is a locally owned national franchise that specializes in cutting time and eliminating costs that go hand-in-hand with taxes. Russell offers this to her clients based on its easy-to-use technology driven services.

Angela Romine first started consulting with Russell for her own personal taxes

while she was in massage school, but after a short while, Romine wanted to open her own massage therapy clinic. With the help and expertise that Russell offered, Romine was able to start her own business.

"She was an overall one-stop shop," said Romine. "She recommended Quick-Books and how to set it up. She helped me grow my business and know the difference between having employees versus contractors."

Romine opened Halo Massage and Wellness clinic in May 2013 in Springfield.

In addition to her accounting firm, Russell has also gained personal success and recognition. She was voted one of 417 Magazine's 10 Most Beautiful Women, Springfield Business Journal's Twenty Most Influential Women, Springfield Business Journal's 40 under 40, and Payroll Vault Entrepreneur of the Year.

"The faculty in Plaster, in general, helped open doors and opportunities that myself, or any student, wouldn't have known otherwise," said Russell. "It impacted me greatly."

— Alicia Tucker, '14

"The faculty in Plaster, in general, helped open doors and opportunities that myself, or any student, wouldn't have known otherwise. It impacted me greatly."

Q&A

Missouri Southern's International Studies program drew two brothers from Germany to Joplin, and they reflect on their careers, travel and those days as a Lion.

Dr. Michael Raska, '00, is a research fellow at the Institute of Defense and Strategic Studies in the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University, in Singapore. Christian Raska, '05, is key account manager for Deutsche Bahn in Germany, where he lives with his wife, Maja.

Q: Why did you select Missouri Southern?

A: **Michael:** My brother is four years younger than me and was searching for a college after finishing his high school. Naturally, he asked me about Southern, and I told him to apply. Back then, Southern was also a great value — both academically and financially.

Christian: I'm not sure about this one. The truth is that Michael paved the way and had the experience, which made it easier for me as his younger sibling. I'm not afraid to say that I copied him to a certain point, at least until I graduated.

Q: How do you feel about your time at Southern?

A: **Michael:** I was very happy at Southern, mainly for the fact that I had a great home. I was hosted by Dr. Denise Hamar and Dr. Paul Toma, who opened their home to me, which enabled me to focus solely on my studies. Later, I also became close with the family of Suzanne Nelson (the famous Suzanne's Natural Foods owner). To both families, I owe much appreciation and gratitude. This is probably the most unique benefit for international students at Southern — many American families open their doors to international students.

Christian: I enjoyed my time in Joplin and at Missouri Southern very much, and this sentence doesn't quite express how much I really enjoyed it. I had great mentors, not only among the university staff, but also outside of MSSU, many of whom remain my dearest friends today and who had a profound influence on me. I felt challenged by my classes, was crazy about playing racquetball, I liked everything about the campus. I come from the other side of the world but I am proud to say: "Ich bin ein Jopliner."



As part of his work in defense diplomacy, Dr. Michael Raska, '00, visits the deck of the USS George Washington aircraft carrier docked at Singapore's Changi Naval Base. — Submitted photo

Q: Did you realize a cultural difference between Joplin and your hometown?

A: **Michael:** There are many cultural differences based on the different historical trajectories, language and geography, and ways of life. Generally, the most significant difference I found is in the relationships — Americans are in a constant motion — in how people relate to each other, communicate, share their experiences and life's aspirations. They seem to be more competitive or argumentative, decisive and perhaps also more optimistic in their search for a better life. On the other hand, Europeans, Germans in particular, are generally more reserved, egalitarian, orderly, honest, and perhaps most importantly, always on time. So the key to intercultural competence is to understand these varying nuances and learn from each other.

Christian: I think talking about cultural differences is overrated. Of course there are cultural differences between Germany and Missouri. There are cultural differences between Ohio (where I lived before) and Missouri as much as between let's say San Francisco and Joplin. There were times when I didn't understand why people in

Joplin felt strongly about certain things that I didn't feel so strongly about. It would be too easy to write it off as cultural differences, though. What I think is important and what mattered the most was that despite possible differences, I always felt welcome and would love to go back.

Q: How important was your degree for your later career?

A: **Michael:** When I joined Southern in 1997, it was also the initial phase of the International Mission. It was an exciting time, not only for the growing number of us international students at Southern, but for everyone. Each semester brought new country perspectives, educational and cultural events, which together inspired many students, including me. In 1997, for example, I remember my senior classmates at *The Chart* taking a trip to Hong Kong to cover "the Handover" — the transfer of sovereignty over Hong Kong from the United Kingdom to China. I really wanted to go on that trip but couldn't for a number of reasons. However, I was so inspired by their stories, photographs and adventures that I told myself that one day,

I have to go there. Now, each time I visit Hong Kong, I remember *The Chart* story — it simply inspired me to continue to explore the world. Ultimately, in 1999, as part of Southern's International Student Exchange Program, I went to Seoul, South Korea, to study at Yonsei University.

Christian: I am absolutely convinced that studying and graduating from MSSU was essential in all of my later academic as well as professional pursuits. It might sound cheesy, but MSSU formed the foundation on which I built everything else so far. It opened many doors and created many awesome opportunities that go well beyond Joplin, Missouri.

Q: What was your career after graduation?

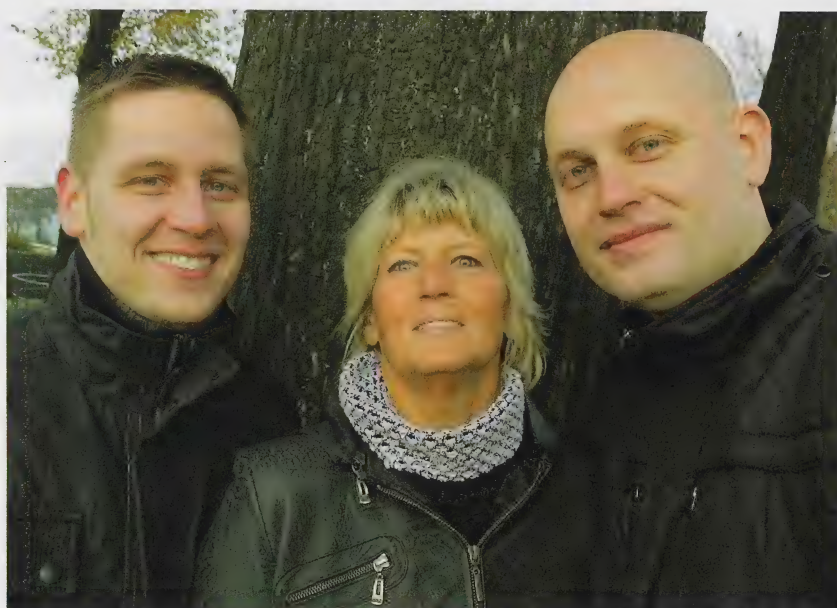
A: **Michael:** I went to Seoul for my graduate studies at Yonsei University. In 2004, I went to study at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem (Rothberg International School) to learn more about Israeli security concepts, history and strategic thought. I knew I wanted to start a Ph.D., but didn't have a topic yet. However, that was arguably one of my best years abroad — with many stories and experiences that I will always remember. After Israel, I went back to South Korea to work at the Samsung Economic Research Institute — Korea's largest private think tank. In 2012, after I got my doctorate at the National

University of Singapore, I joined the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore as a Research Fellow. Basically, my research interests now focus primarily on East Asian strategic and defense issues and specifically in two aspects: military / strategic futures and technology futures. With regard to military futures, I analyze East Asia's force modernization trajectories — from changes in national defense strategies to technology developments that could affect the future security template in East Asia. At RSIS, I am also teaching a course titled Conflicts in the Digital Age: Information and Cyberwarfare, which explores the progressive dynamics of information and cyber warfare as a new battle-space that converges political, military, socio-economic and cyber domains with varying implications on national security, military power and future conflicts. With regard to my professional military education experience, from 2012-13, I taught at the Singapore Armed Forces Goh Keng Swee Command and Staff College, where I continue to serve as an adjunct lecturer. I still go back to the U.S. In 2012, I was selected as a participant in the Columbia/Cornell University Summer Workshop on Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy; in 2013 it was the Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies Workshop at Basin Harbor and the

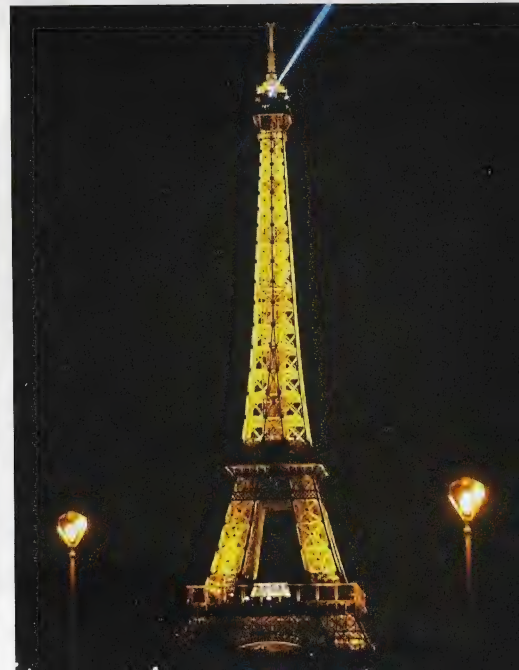
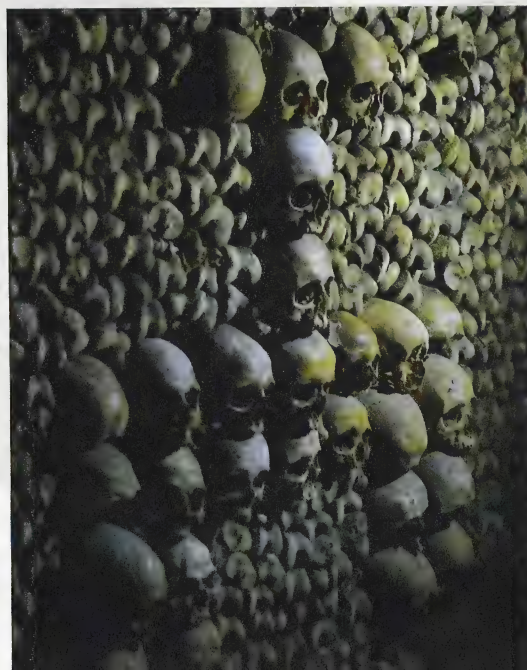
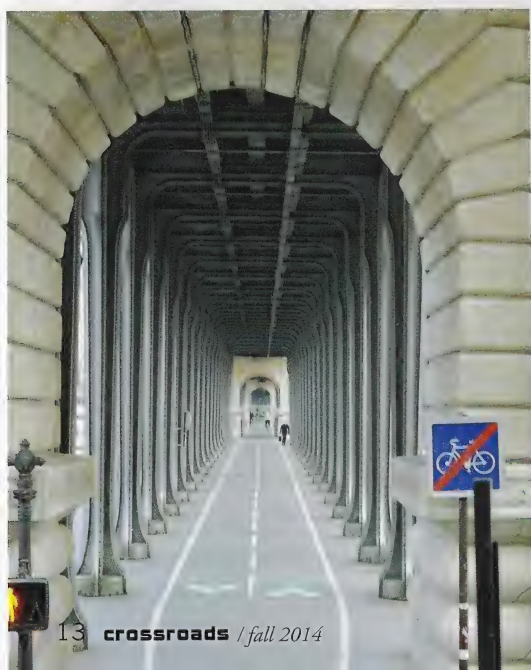
Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation Training Workshop on the Relationship between National Security and Technology in China held at the University of California, San Diego. This year, I presented a paper on the future of the PLA at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle.

Christian: After I graduated from MSSU in 2005, I went on to get my master's degree in international relations at the University of Amsterdam. While I was studying in the Netherlands, I started working for international companies pretty much right away (at Fujitsu and later on at Unisys — both IT companies). That was my first professional experience outside the academic environment that I was used to. After receiving my master's, I moved from Holland to Cologne, Germany. I think I was contemplating for a brief period of time whether or not to continue my studies and get a Ph.D. I decided against it and started working for a consulting company as a junior consultant. After about two years, I received a job offer from the Deutsche Bahn (German railways) as key account manager, and I've been working for the DB for about four years now. I am responsible for a team of 20 employees and a client account with an annual revenue of about 5.5 million Euros (which honestly is peanuts for the Deutsche Bahn, but it's enough stress for me).

— Sascha Rühl



Left, Christian, '05, and Maja Raska were married on August 30, 2014, in Schermbeck, Germany. Above, Christian and Michael enjoy reunions with their mother, Christine, whenever their schedules allow. — Submitted photos



PARISIAN AFFAIR

After 15 years, seminar still provides unique experience.

Studying abroad in Paris, France, opened my eyes to how different cultures can be. The French, in comparison to Americans, dress nicer, walk more and have a divine appreciation for the little things. Americans, compared to the French, eat more, talk louder and appreciate a friendly smile from a passerby.



Both cultures are different, but both cultures offer the opportunity to be shared.

Starting 15 years ago, students from Missouri Southern attended the International Media Seminar at the American University

of Paris. The seminar began in 1996, and the first MSSU group of 18 students and two faculty members traveled to Paris in 1999. To date, Southern has sent 138 students to take part in the seminar, with the latest group going in spring 2014.

Lee and Berna Huebner organize the seminar each year. Lee is a professor of media and public affairs at George Washington University and former publisher of the *International Herald Tribune* in Paris. Berna is founder of the Hilgos Foundation in Chicago, and serves on many academic advisory boards in the U.S. and Paris.

Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82, director of the Institute of International Studies, initiated

involvement in the seminar after he met the Huebners in 1997 for dinner in their Paris apartment.

"They told me about the International Media Seminar, and I made plans to start bringing students a year and a half later," said Stebbins.

The seminar offers students the opportunity to be exposed to distinguished media and marketing professionals as well as the chance to see and experience Paris, the City of Light. After this study abroad trip, I have acquired an appreciation for walks, savoring the moment and the little things that make life unique.

— Alicia Tucker, '14, Paris, 2014



Above, students file into the offices of *Libération*, a French newspaper in Paris. Students met with the editor and enjoyed a sack lunch on the publication's rooftop terrace overlooking the city. Facing page: Top, an artist replicates an original art piece in the Louvre. Far left, an archway on a Paris walkway is one of many architectural examples students learn about. Center, a trip to the Catacombs is always a favorite place to visit in Paris. Left, the Eiffel Tower at night is an impressive sight. Students travel to the top of the tower when they attend the seminar. — Photos by Kurt Montgomery, '14, and Lindsey Gray, '15

Want to know more?

To watch a video on the ride to the top of the Eiffel Tower:
youtu.be/xb-H4dBASvg

To watch a KOAM-TV interview about the International Media Seminar:
youtu.be/Dp_ufaWFeno

What alumni have to say:

"The opportunity to go to Paris and be a part of the first International Media Seminar was a high point in my college education. It allowed me to go beyond the classroom walls and hear firsthand the role that media and journalism play throughout the world. It was an inspiration and the ideas I learned there continue to be applicable in my career."

— Jeff Billington, '99; Paris, 1999

"The International Media Seminar in Paris was an amazing opportunity that I simply couldn't pass up. Being from a small town, the seminar allowed the world not to seem so big and it made me believe I could do anything, be anything if I wanted it and worked hard. I completely agree with Thomas Jefferson when he said, 'A walk about Paris will provide lessons in history, beauty and in the point of Life.'"

— Kayla Rinker, '04; Paris, 2002

"When the opportunity came up, though, I jumped at it, without hesitation. The seminar was filled with professionals in the field and made me sure I wanted to be a journalist. While life hasn't played out that way, it was still an experience that I will always treasure."

— Nathan Carter, '11; Paris, 2010

Greatest show on campus delights Lions.

Homecoming is always a special time for our alumni, faculty, staff and friends to reconnect and show their Lion Pride on campus and in the community. This year, we saw Lion Pride throughout the community and all over campus with reunions, Paint the Town Green and Gold, and a variety of events.

On Friday night, the Alumni Association hosted three events. We celebrated the first ever Alumni Family Fun Night at Carousel Park. Alumni and their families purchased \$5 ride bracelets and enjoyed an evening of fun. We also sponsored the annual All-Alumni Reception at the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center. This event recognizes the awardees for Homecoming and provides a great way to connect in our beautiful facility.

The International Media Seminar Reunion, celebrating the past 15 years of international travelers to Paris, met at Keltoi Winery to reminisce about the trips and seminars abroad for those studying in journalism and public relations. The university has sent nearly 140 students to this study abroad program.

On Saturday, the Lion Pride Brunch was in Billingsly Student Center's Connor Ballroom, followed by the Homecoming parade and football game vs. the Central Missouri Mules. Among those recognized were three conference-winning teams: 1980 tennis, 1984 volleyball and 1990 softball.

Saturday night featured three more reunions: the Honors Program at Keltoi Winery; the KGCS-TV 30th Anniversary honoring Outstanding TV Alumni Erik Schrader, '90, Tammy Spicer, '98, and Esdra Lamy, '00; and Theatre Alumni gathered for performances by alums and students as well as a scene from the play *The Trojan Women*.

This year's Homecoming theme was "Come One, Come All," and the weekend capped off a great week of circus-type events, including elephant rides on the Oval. Be sure to make your plans for Homecoming 2015, so you, too, can keep Missouri Southern as your "Connection for Life."

— Lee Elliff Pound, '86

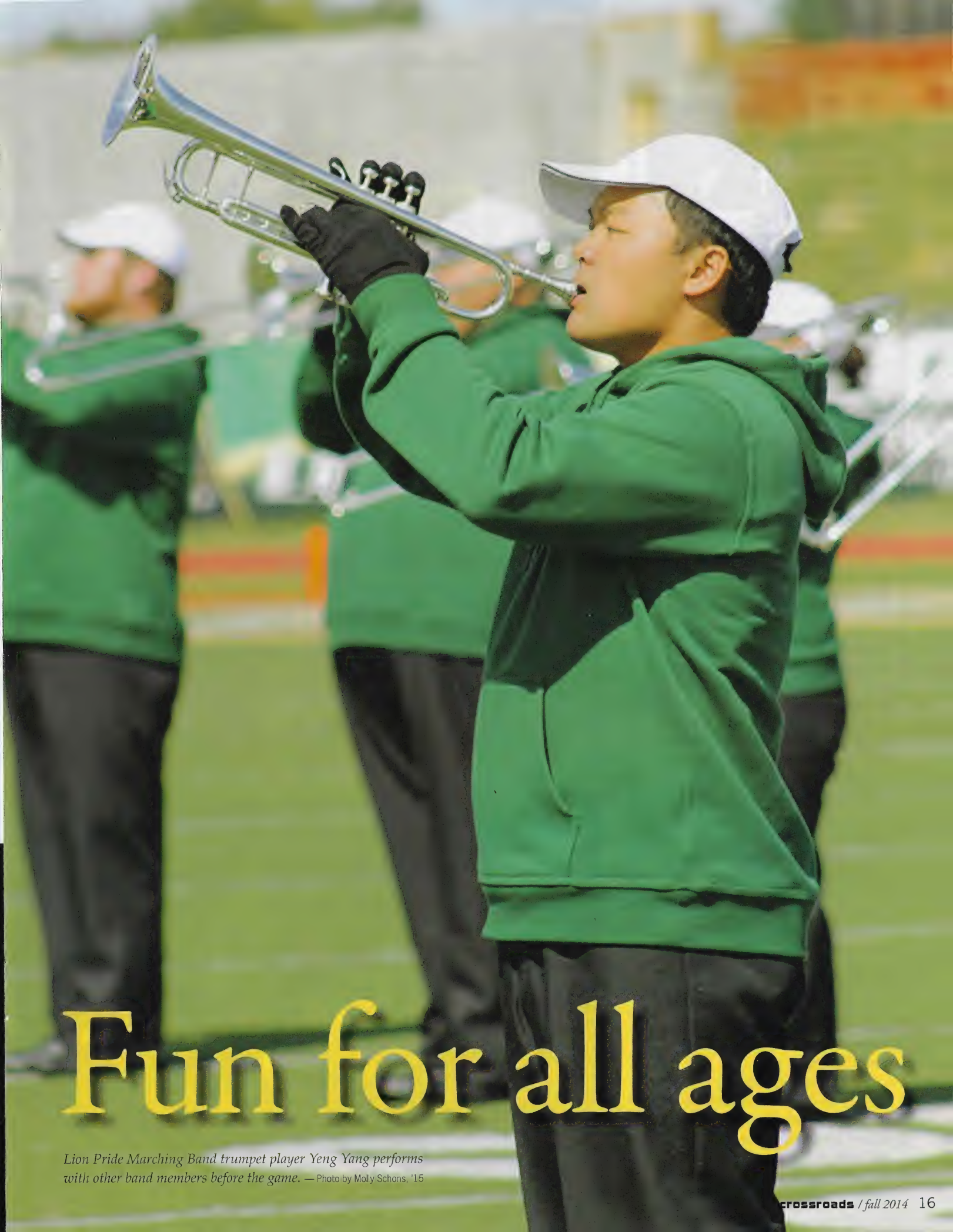


Above left, members of Missouri Southern's ROTC serve as the color guard as the Homecoming parade begins on October 4 on campus. Above right, Rod Surber, director of account development, drives the Lion helmet car while his two granddaughters, Raegan Surber and Madison Landon, toss out candy to the crowd.



Above, Southern Gold Dance Team members celebrate Homecoming on a parade float. Below, Scott Meeker, '98, communications and new media specialist at Southern, and his wife, Brett (Doenning) Meeker, '01, enjoy the parade with their children, Megan and Henry. — Photos by Molly Schons, '15





Fun for all ages

Lion Pride Marching Band trumpet player Yeng Yang performs with other band members before the game. — Photo by Molly Schons, '15

2014 OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS

Daryl Deel, '75, was the 2014 outstanding alumnus. Born in Drexel, Missouri, Deel holds a bachelor's degree in accounting. He began his professional career in 1975 as a CPA with Baird, Kurtz and Dobson as the firm's transportation specialist and a partner until he left in 1990 to join Trism Inc. as executive vice president of finance.



In 1995, Deel became president of Tri-State Motor Transit, a wholly owned subsidiary of Trism. He left Trism in 1997 and purchased R & R Trucking Inc., which specialized in the transportation of Department of Defense arms, ammunition and explosives, commercial explosives and radioactive materials. He sold R & R in March 2007 and purchased an interest in EBV Explosives Environmental Company, taking a position as vice-chairman. EBV, which sold in 2010, provided waste explosive dismantling and incineration services to the Department of Defense and commercial companies.

Deel is the managing member of Deel Investments LP and Deel Enterprises LLC. He served on the Board of the National Defense Transportation Association and chaired the NDTA Surface Transportation Committee. In 2007, he was honored to receive the St. Christopher Medal from the U.S. Army and the President's Award from the NDTA. In 2004, the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce recognized R & R Trucking as Large Industry of the Year. He served on the Board of the American Trucking Association and chaired two ATA committees. He is a past member of the Board of Governors of the Institute of Makers of Explosives and served on the executive board of directors for the Missouri Motor Carriers Association. Deel has served on the boards of charitable, civic and philanthropic organizations in Joplin, Missouri. He and his wife of 39 years, Pat, enjoy traveling and spending time with their two daughters and three grandchildren.

Because Homecoming was canceled in 2013, the Alumni Association also honored last year's Outstanding Alumnus, Michael (Mike) W. Osborne, '76, and Rob Roy Ratliff, '47.



Above, Lion-Hearted recipient for 2014 Bill Martz throws candy to the crowd during the parade. Below, Missouri Southern Marching Band treks across campus during the annual parade on October 4. — Photos by Molly Schons, '15



Below left, Sam McMahon, Missouri Southern assistant men's basketball coach, grills before the Homecoming football game vs. Central Missouri. Below right, a Lion fan shows her team spirit during the game. Southern lost in overtime to the Mules, 34-31.





Above, freshman Shannon Saunders runs the ball for a Lion touchdown during Southern's game against the University of Central Missouri Mules on October 4. Below left, Dr. Alan Marble, '79, and his wife, Lori, step out on the field during halftime to crown this year's Homecoming king and queen. — Photos by Molly Schons, '15

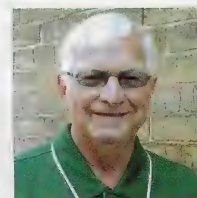


Above right, this year's Homecoming royalty is King Zachary Pettit and Queen Rhea Ghosh. — Photos by Molly Schons, '15 Below, 2014 Outstanding Alumnus Daryl Deel, '75, and his wife, Pat, join Cindy and Robert Corn, '78, on October 3 at the Homecoming reception for alumni at the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center. — Photo by Natalie Cossey, '16



2014 LION-HEARTED

Bill Martz, a resident of Neosho, Missouri, has been a Lionbacker for more than 15 years.



He serves on the Lionbacker Steering Committee and works tirelessly on the membership drive because he wants to improve the opportunities for student-athletes. In the last two years, he has recruited more than 30 new members. He has signed more than 50 Lionbackers the past three years, and 97 percent of those are from Neosho.

He reaches out to community members, encouraging their involvement with Missouri Southern. He brings people to Southernfest, Lion Pride lunches and games. As a donor, he has supported scholarships and capital projects. He also has worked hard to identify and build relationships with potential athletic donors.

Martz helped organize the Crowder College Booster Club, served 13 years on the Neosho City Recreation Board, served on the Neosho Housing Authority Board and is a member of Kiwanis.

He moved from Pennsylvania in 1953, when he was drafted into the Army and stationed at Camp Crowder. He was discharged in 1955.

He worked 38 years at the Rocketdyne facility in Neosho, retiring in 1996. He was a member of the Local 1070 UAQ for 38 years and held offices ranging from president to secretary.

He is married to Myrna Martis and has a daughter, Cheryl Lipscomb, who is a graduate of Missouri Southern; a stepson, Rusty Shelley, who is also a Southern graduate and football Hall of Fame member; a stepson, Larry Shelley; and a stepdaughter, Lisa Nelson.

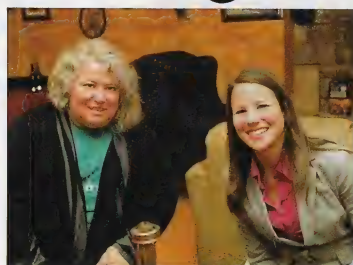
The Alumni Association also recognized the 2013 Lion-Hearted recipients, Don and Gloria LaFerla, after the cancellation of Homecoming festivities that year.

— Award information from staff reports

Reunions bring alumni to Joplin area



Above, Eric Gruber, '00, who went to the first seminar with Missouri Southern in 1999, visits with Richard Massa, former communication department chair, at the International Media Seminar reunion at Keltoi Winery.



Top left, Olive Sullivan, assistant professor of communication, and Brooke Rohlfiing, '10. Left, LeeAnn Langan, '85, co-owner of Keltoi, makes crepes for the group. Above, from left, Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82, Institute of International Studies director; David Goad; Rohlfiing; Teresa Massa; Richard Massa; Rhonda Clark, '00; Sullivan; Stephanie Goad, '99; Rod Surber; Gruber; and Ashley Surber. — Photos by Rhonda Clark, '00



Above, Laudan Baker interviews Dr. Robert Clark, first station manager for KGCS-TV in 1984. Right, Esdra Lamy, '00, one of the Outstanding TV Alumni honored at the KGCS 30th anniversary October 4.



Above, Preston Jones, '11; Ward Bryant, communication department chair; Kristen Livingston, assistant professor; Deidre Morris; and Justin Coale, '13. Above right, Mark Baumgartner, '95, visits with Bryant at the KGCS 30th anniversary dinner in Connor Ballroom. — Photos by Natalie Cossey, '16

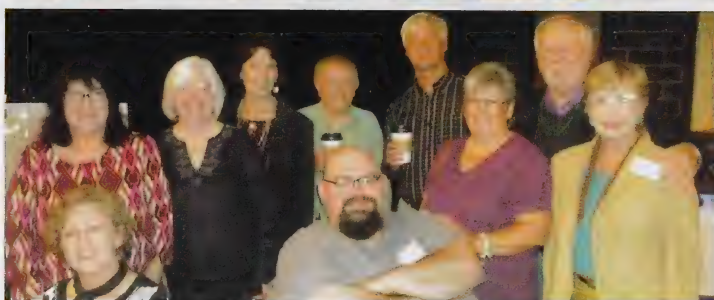


Above, Ero Langan, '77, Keltoi Winery co-owner, discusses wine with Kande Behnke and Elaine Freeman at the Honors Program reunion October 4. Right, other attendees included Brian, '93, and Shelly Nichols, Nii Abrahams, Rich Behnke, Michael Howarth, Joey Brown, Michelle Ducre, Brook Gipson, Cara Gooch and Callie Munson.



Above, Brian and Shelly Nichols visit with Nii Abrahams at the Honors Program reunion. — Photos

courtesy of Michael Howarth



Above left, Cassie Lynch; Jade Nicholas, '09; Brenda Jackson, '86; Jay Fields; Melissa Rutledge, '06; Rachel Stanley, '05; Jimmy Noriega, '05; and Jessie Smith, '05, at the Theatre reunion dinner on October 4. Above right, Duane Hunt, '59, Gwen Hunt, and theatre faculty members Sam Claussen, '70; Fields, Jackson and Anne Jaros. Above, Kelly Purser, Jan Maldonado, Pam Claussen, Brenda Jackson, Sam Claussen, Lyle Burrow, '90, Hank, '85, & Linda Priestler, Duane & Gwen Hunt. — Photos courtesy of Jim Lile



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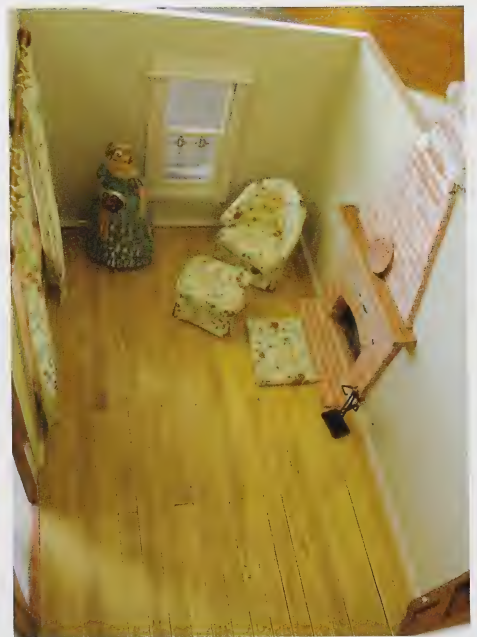
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Little Gifts





Facing page, Mary Weinberg is delighted after Sara Ditto, '56, shows her the new home for the dollhouse Weinberg made with her husband. Weinberg received a surprise in September when she found out Ditto donated the dollhouse, which she purchased at a fundraiser, to be displayed at the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center. Weinberg and Ditto became friends through Missouri Southern's Literary Lions book club. — Photos by Molly Schons, '15

Dollhouse finds a special place on campus, thanks to two friends' literary connection.

It wasn't until Sara Ditto, '56, saw the dollhouse and heard who the creator was that she decided she had to have it.

In November 2013, Ditto, who attended Joplin Junior College, went to a fundraiser for the American Association of University Women, where money raised would go to a scholarship for women attending Missouri Southern.

One of the items up for bid was a little dollhouse made by Mary Weinberg, Ditto's friend through MSSU's book club, Literary Lions.

For someone who claims her great-grandchildren are too old for dolls and dollhouses, other reasons made this particular item one Ditto chose to bid on.

"It caught my eye because it was so charming," said Ditto. "I saw it being put up for auction and somebody was walking around the room with it as they were bidding on it. It got around to me, and I saw it and heard her (Weinberg's) name connected with it. I thought, 'I'm going to buy that.'"

Weinberg continued to develop crafting and building skills when she graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1954, where she began collecting furniture magazines.

"If I saw a piece that I liked in the magazine, I would measure it down to a 12th and

make my own furniture from that," said Weinberg.

Not only does the appearance of the house give it a charming feel, but the various sentimental elements make it special.

Weinberg and her husband, Harry, made the house in the early 1990s. The three-sided house went under construction for remodeling in September 2004.

The house is made of oak and includes a fireplace mantle made of black walnut from the workshop of Weinberg's grandfather. The wood hadn't been used for about 65 years, making the dollhouse an antique piece. The house includes an electric fireplace with a light that illuminates the homey one-room dollhouse and its furniture, delicately hand crafted by Weinberg. Turquoise stones, gathered by Weinberg from beaches around the U.S., accent the fireplace.

The now four-sided finished dollhouse was officially named "Little's Cottage" after Weinberg's grandfather. The house number 2005 represents the year it was finished.

Ditto's impulse to buy the dollhouse stemmed from her support of Southern and the relationship she built with Weinberg through Literary Lions. Wendy McGrane, Southern's library director, enjoys seeing relationships grow through the club.

"Mary and Sara were both in our first book club back in 2002, and they've been steady participants all the way through," said McGrane.

Ditto realized her use for the dollhouse was limited and made the decision to donate it to the Missouri Southern Alumni Association this year.

"It was just so special," said Ditto. "I kept thinking that it should be shared. I thought it'd make an adorable setting. I just think it's a conversation piece for people seeing it."

Weinberg was surprised to see the dollhouse she created on display at the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center for the first time.

"I'm just tickled pink," said Weinberg.

The piece will serve as a symbol of the relationships that have been and will continue to be made through Southern.

Lee Elliff Pound, '86, alumni director, looks forward to decorating the dollhouse for the Christmas season open house.

"I just think it's wonderful when we have these kinds of relationships that people want to give back something that really means something to them and to the university," Pound said. "Then we can share that story with the generations to come. That's our job."

— Molly Greer, '15



ROAD MAP to success

As Missouri Southern's fifth president, Marble looks toward a bright future for the Lions.

Objects lining the shiny oak shelves tell a story all their own — the story of a person whose life experiences and past shaped him into becoming a team player.

Sports memorabilia show his spirit for the game. Pictures of his family tell the importance of his roots. The many books explain the hard work and dedication it takes to achieve his role as Missouri Southern's new president.

After serving almost a year as interim president, Dr. Alan Marble, '79, was named Southern's fifth president on June 3.

Much can be said about what it means for an MSSU alum to become president of his alma mater. In particular, the Lion pride felt and expressed means having the will and determination to make this university the best it can be.

For Marble, this pride is about what it was like for him to be a student, a peer and a Lion.

"Those friendships create a special bond that are very important to me still, and at a place like Missouri Southern, you're not just a face in the crowd," Marble said.

With that pride comes the importance of what lies ahead for Southern's future. Goal-orientated and focused on his hopes for MSSU, Marble believes that what makes the university great are the people students meet and keep as lifelong friends.

Pride and friendships aside, a new president is tasked with figuring out how to achieve excellence and trust within the campus and community.

"For me, it is a road map, a map that means we have our eye on the future," Marble said.

"We are not trying to drive looking in the rearview mirror. We are proud of our history and proud of what has already been accomplished, but it's the next five, 10, 20 years that we need to be looking ahead to. We need to keep a good balance and keep asking ourselves: 'What are the jobs of the future, what career fields will students be entering, and how do we best prepare them?'"

Without leadership by design and accuracy, goals and aspirations cannot come to productive fruition. Marble knows, like any large community process, it takes a village.

He credited the hard work of Lee Elliff Pound, '86, Missouri Southern Alumni Association director, and all of the alumni involved in the campaign to renovate the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center. Marble also said the association's generosity makes it possible for students to earn scholarships.

Pound is excited to have Marble leading Southern into the future.

"As an alum, our president has a unique experience to view opportunities from a variety of positions — alum, president and parent — and how we can continue to make changes that are in the best interests of our students, both current and future," Pound said.

Through the changes MSSU is heading toward, whether it's new buildings to house students, the ability to advance sports programs, or fine tuning degree programs to help students enhance career goals, Marble wants alumni and the Southern community to know success is based on encouragement.

"I believe the key to success in this university is the ability to take in information from all the stakeholders — students, faculty, staff, everyone — so that better decisions can be made from the board on down," he said. "Our plans are pretty grandiose in scale, but it's about picking off pieces one at a time in order to accommodate student needs. That requires investing in those needs."

His road map ahead looks promising.

"As family and alumni, we must help our son or daughter focus on graduating, not just attending, but graduating," he said.

Marble's thoughts could not be more important for his own family as well, since his twin sons became Lions this year.

"Our graduates have done all kinds of great things," Marble said.

"We want to make sure our alumni and faculty agree that it is so important for our students to know that this university will prepare them for any endeavor they choose, anything they decide to put their heart and soul into."

— Photo and story by Natalie Cossey, '16

Building Upon a Legacy

Dr. Julio S. León



***B**eyond the rows of folding chairs set up in the lobby of the Health Sciences Building — the ceremony pushed indoors because of the heat — it was standing room only.*



Dr. Julio S. León and his wife, Vivian, cut the ribbon to the Health Sciences Center that now bears his name. — Photo by Molly Schons, '15

Faculty and staff members stood shoulder to shoulder with donors and friends of the university, the crowd spilling around the corners and into the hallways where they could only hear, but not see, remarks being made by the building's namesake.

On August 27, for the second time this year, Dr. Julio León and his wife, Vivian, returned to the campus they called home for nearly four decades. While the first visit had the air of a family reunion, this time there was a sense of finality ... of a legacy being underlined.

"We spent nearly 40 years in this community and our main concern was no matter what we did, we always tried to do it with class and with excellence," León said, his wife at his side. "I hope that over the years, the community will remember a pair of foreigners who passed through here and made their mark. Thanks to all of you for opening your arms to us and for allowing us to be part of your community."

His presidency at Missouri Southern spanned a third of the university's history. While the building that now bears his name might be the most visible reminder of his years on campus, there's no denying that his real legacy stretches much further than those walls.

'Everyone saw his potential'

The first time León visited Southern's campus, it was as a job candidate for a faculty position in the business department. In the summer of 1969, the native of Chile was finishing his doctorate at the University of Arkansas and the job search had begun. During a visit to Crowder College in Neosho, Missouri, he learned that no positions were available, but it was suggested that he look at what Southern might have to offer.

"When I came for an interview, the business department at that time was housed



Above, Dr. Delores Honey, director of donor relations and University President Alan Marble, '79, assist the Leóns as they cut the ribbon to the Julio S. León Health Sciences Center on August 27. Below left, Seth Ernst, senior music major at Missouri Southern, plays the piano on April 26 at the tribute dinner for the Leóns in Connor Ballroom. Below right, Honey, Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82, director of the Institute of International Studies, and Marble announce the building's new name at the tribute dinner. — Photos by Natalie Cossey, '16, & Willie Brown, '15

in the basement of Hearnest Hall, where admissions is now," said León. "They took me to lunch in what was called the mansion annex, which was a cafeteria at the time."

When the position was formally offered, he accepted — becoming a part of an institution that was in a period of transition. Only two years before, the former junior college had become a four-year college.

"The sole mission of Joplin Junior College was to prepare students to transfer to a four-year institution," said León. "(After becoming Missouri Southern State College) there was an inflow of new faculty members with Ph.D.'s along with the continuing work by very dedicated teachers from the junior college."

Returning to campus for the start of fall classes, he found that things had changed.

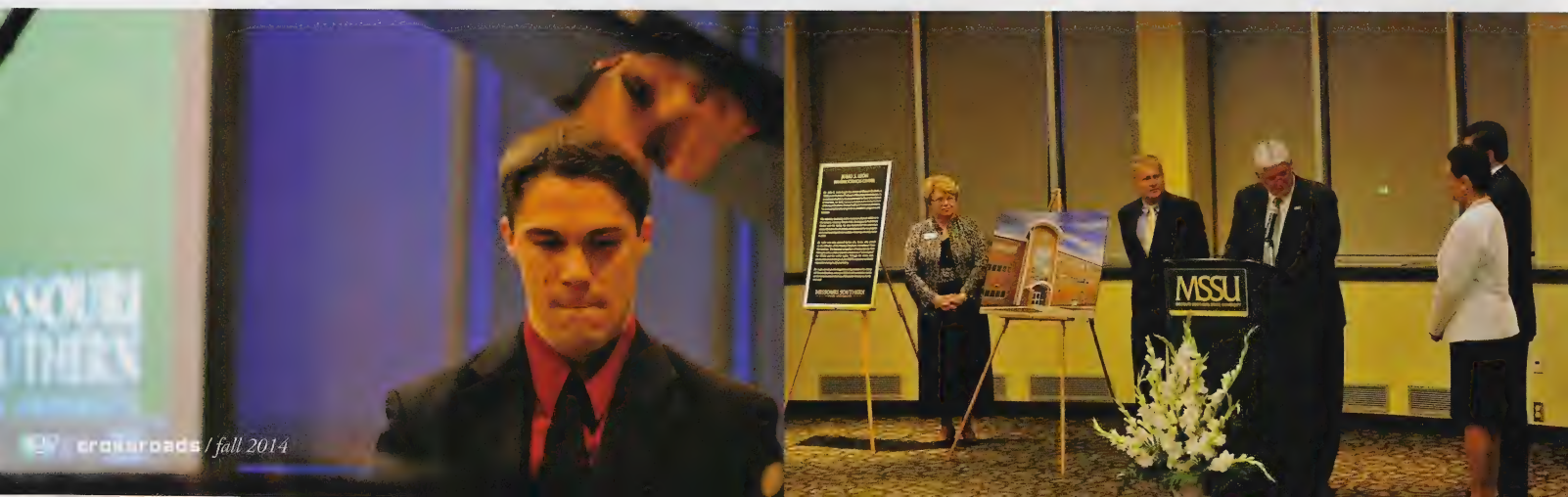
"The business department had been moved to the mansion," he said. "All of

the faculty had offices in the mansion, and the old cafeteria had been partitioned into classrooms. I shared a large office with two other faculty members. I spent six beautiful years in that building."

In 1976, León was appointed dean of the School of Business Administration. Dr. Delores Honey, now director of donor relations for the Missouri Southern Foundation, joined the business school in 1980.

"He was well-respected then," Honey said. "I think he was recognized by lots of people as an outstanding leader ... everyone saw his potential."

That potential was solidified in June 1982 when León was tabbed by the Board of Regents to serve as the college's interim president, following the resignation of Dr. Donald Darnton. It was a time of unrest on the campus, due to issues such as a conflict over the faculty evaluation system and the



unfavorable results of a management audit.

Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82, director of the Institute of International Studies, was the student editor of *The Chart*, the campus newspaper.

"I interviewed him just moments after he was named interim president," said Stebbins. "He was over on the second floor of the mansion, all alone. He was very emotional. He talked about realizing the enormous responsibility that had just been placed on him."

'A visionary'

After a six-month search by the Presidential Search and Screening Committee, León was selected from among 149 applicants to serve as the college's third president.

"I still remember one of the first things I did as president," said León. "I asked Senator Richard Webster, who was a very influential legislator at the time, what we would need to do to become a university. He told me that it would take some work, and that I needed to be patient."

"It took a while for it to be accomplished. There were a lot of other interests in the way. But it eventually happened in 2003."

In addition to securing university status for Southern, his presidency saw the development of the International Mission and the Honors Program. It was also marked by a period of growth for the campus, not only in terms of enrollment but building projects such as Webster Hall, the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center, the Bud Walton Theatre and the Mayes Student Life Center.

"He was such a visionary in that he was always thinking about 10 years ahead," said Stebbins. "That was a great competitive advantage for Missouri Southern, having someone that forward thinking. We often set the curve instead of following it."

His accomplishments coupled with the



Above, Marble and the Leóns listen to speakers August 27 at the dedication of the Julio S. León Health Sciences Center. Below left, attendees listen to a presentation on León's Missouri Southern legacy on April 26 at the tribute dinner in Connor Ballroom. Below right, Cynthia Schwab, a Joplin resident and longtime supporter of the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition, visits with Vivian León at the tribute dinner. — Photos by Natalie Cossey, '16, and Willie Brown, '15

growth of the campus were remarkable in that the economic outlook during León's presidency wasn't always the best.

"While I was there, we went through three recessions — 1982, 1991 and 2001. It just seemed like it happened every 10 years," he said. "But we always managed, with the help of the faculty and staff to stay in a stable situation."

Dr. Paul Teverow, history professor, remembered working closely with León when Teverow was president of the Faculty Senate. At that time, faculty members and the administration didn't always see eye to eye on the issues facing Southern. There were moments, he said, where tension ran high when they'd meet to discuss those issues.

"But what sticks out most to me is that it never got personal," Teverow said. "In social activities, he was always very warm to me. Whenever I was applying for special opportunities like studying abroad, or grants

for faculty development, the fact that he and I had argued never had any impact."

Teverow also said, looking back, he appreciated León's efforts to build rapport among faculty members, even those across different departments. Whether it was through faculty dinners before the start of the fall semester or retirement ceremonies, those things helped build a sense of community at Southern. Such events may have seemed to be purely social, but they held a deeper purpose.

"It's something that disappeared pretty quickly when those things weren't upheld," Teverow said. "It looks like Dr. (Alan) Marble is doing his very best to reinstitute it, and I applaud that. Part of it is because it makes for a more pleasant place to work when the faculty are your colleagues, even outside of your department. But it also makes it easier to have a common sense of vision."



'It's an honor'

When León announced his retirement on August 17, 2007, it marked the end of an era at the university.

"He helped to raise the stature of Missouri Southern, to raise its image," said Honey. "Dr. León's tireless efforts on behalf of our institution are as much his legacy as a building being named after him. The true dedication and love for this institution came through in so many ways."

Teverow penned a note to León upon learning that he would be leaving Southern.

"It said that the Missouri Southern he's retiring from is a much stronger institution academically than it was when I came here," said Teverow. "Dr. León has a lot to do with that. He made it his business — and this was something I took for granted at the time — to attract the best faculty he could ... a faculty that was much more diverse in terms of the geographical areas they came from and the kinds of institutions where they earned their degrees. That was no accident. It was part of his vision for the kind of institution he wanted Missouri Southern to be."

León would move on, as would Southern. Dr. Bruce Speck was named president of the university in 2008, a position he held until 2013. Dr. Alan Marble was named interim president on July 1, 2013, and was named the university's fifth president on June 3, 2014.

There was a feeling, however, that León's legacy at Southern hadn't properly been recognized.

"I don't think anyone was satisfied with the way his career as president ended," said Stebbins. "It left a hollow, empty feeling for a lot of people — several of us who felt he hadn't quite gotten his due for his marvelous accomplishments. Delores Honey, John Tiede and I approached Dr. Marble during his first week in office."

They went to Marble with the idea of naming the Health Sciences Building for León. The new president agreed with the idea and challenged them to begin raising money to help make it possible.

The Leóns returned to campus on April 26 for a tribute dinner in their honor, and the event had the feel of a family reunion. Handshakes, hugs and shared memories of their years on campus flowed as a crowd of about 250 gathered in Connor Ballroom to welcome them back.

The evening was capped by the official



The McCune-Brooks Healthcare Foundation Nursing Department is dedicated as part of the ceremony for the Leóns on August 27. Foundation members cutting the ribbon are (from left, front) Mark Elliff, '79, president; Miriam Putnam; Elizabeth Spradling Simmons, director; Shala Rogler, assistant director; (from left, back) Carolyn Phelps; and Lora Honey Phelps. — Photo by Molly Schons, '15

During this fall's dedication ceremony for the Julio S. León Health Sciences Center, several others were recognized for their contributions to the continued success of the program.

Ribbon cuttings were held for McCune-Brooks Healthcare Foundation Nursing Department, the Pat & Carolyn Phelps Interdisciplinary Simulation Lab, and the John & Joy Cragin Computer Lab. The Gail & Russell Smith II Endowment for Technical Services Writing was announced. W. Robert Corley, for whom the Dental Hygiene Clinic is named, was also in attendance. The Ruth Kolpin-Rubison Tiered Classrooms in Webster Hall were dedicated earlier in the day.

Also recognized for their contributions were Leland and Donna Browne; Dr. Larry and Elizabeth Deffenbaugh; Dr. Delores and Jim Honey; Anthony, '48, and Maridan, '86, Kassab; Richard and Teresa Massa; Dr. Charles and the late Jennifer McGinty; Myron, '64, and Janet McKinney; Sara Newman; Mike, Lee (Elliff, '86) and Emma Pound; Bill and Cindy Putnam; Cynthia Schwab; the Sharp Family; and Dr. John and Barbara Windle.

announcement that the Health Sciences Building would be dedicated as the Julio S. León Health Sciences Center.

"It was obviously a surprise, but there was a very nice feeling of gratitude," said León. "It's an honor, and I'm grateful to the Board of Governors and everyone who helped make it possible."

On August 27, the Leóns returned for the building's formal dedication.

"The reason I was successful in any way is because of the work you all did in the classroom and in your offices," he said to those gathered for the event. "I thank you very much for that."

As for what's next, anything is possible, said León. Most recently, he served as the special adviser to the executive vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Texas System, in charge of creating a new university and a medical school in

South Texas. The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley will open in August 2015.

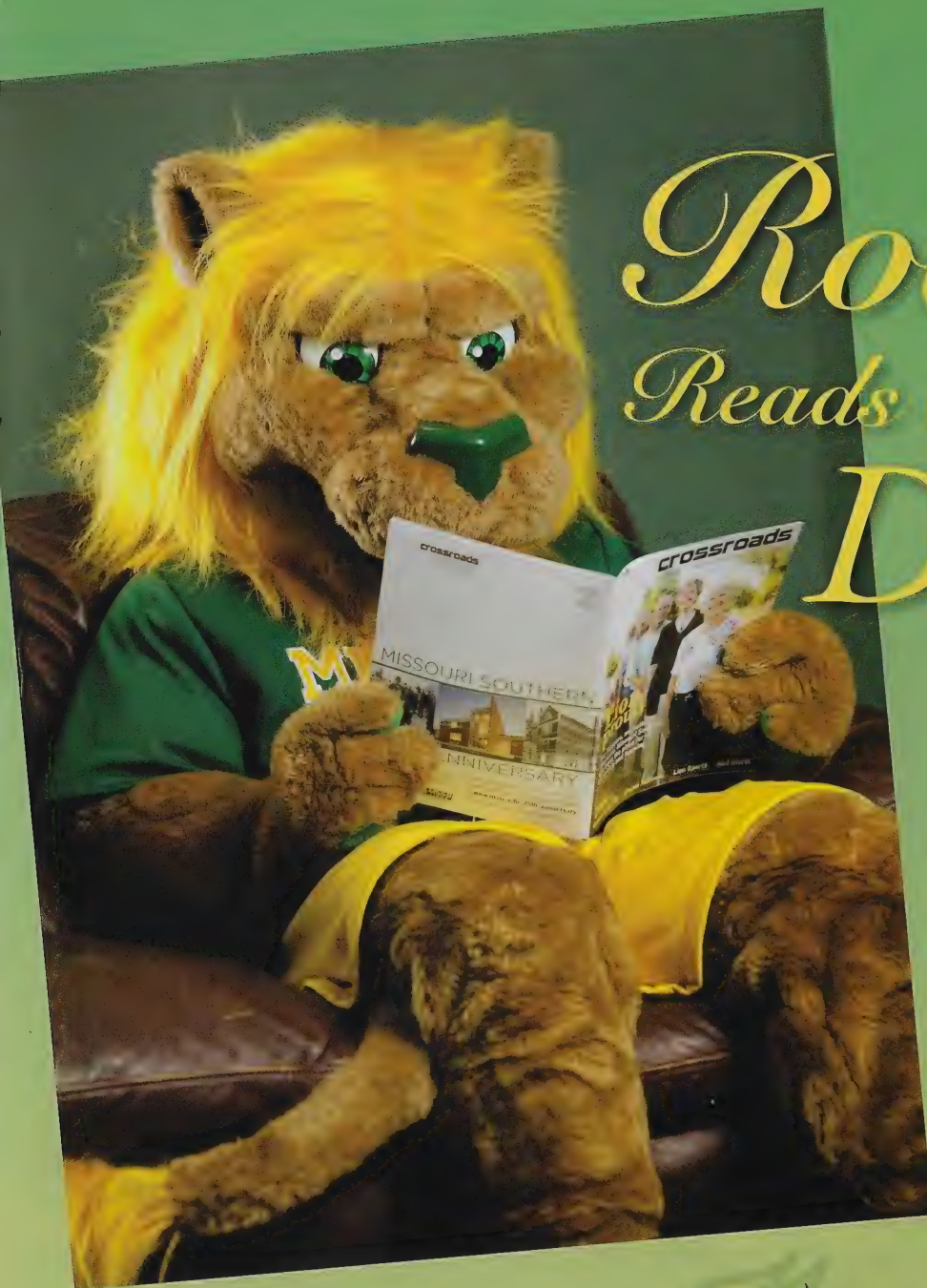
Known for her cultural legacy at Southern, including her work as the director of the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition, it should come as no surprise that Vivian León's love for the arts continued to flourish in Texas.

She began the work of establishing a music festival at the university and also gave a master class for area piano students.

With a founding president recently selected, León's work with that university has also come to a close.

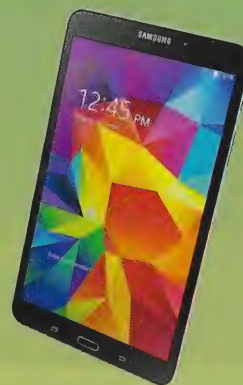
"Right now, I'm going to rest a little bit, do a little traveling," he said. "We'll see if other opportunities come up that I might be interested in. That's the beauty of being retired — being able to pick and choose."

— Scott Meeker, '98



Roary Reads **crossroads** Do You?

Take our MoSo trivia challenge and you just might qualify to win a Samsung Galaxy Tab4. Then, you can take us wherever you go!



Question: Who were the families that lived in the mansion before it was donated to Missouri Southern?

If more than one entry with the correct answer is submitted, a drawing will determine the winner (previous winners cannot enter the fall contest). To enter, please submit your answer by February 1, 2015, to:

AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu

Hints can be found in the online edition of **crossroads** at www.issuu.com/crossroadsmssu/docs/crfall14

Spring 2014 Samsung Galaxy Tab2 winners: Wendy McGrane and Charles Nodler, '75

UNDER ^{the} LIGHTS

The stage's allure helps fuel dreams to perform on Broadway.



Stephanie Harter Gilmore, '05, takes center stage as Duchess Estonia Dulworth in the Broadway first national tour of Nice Work If You Can Get It, which opened September 3 in Dallas and closes March 22 in Costa Mesa, California. The tour plays 30 cities across the U.S. — Photo by Jeremy Daniel

Before she started attending classes at Missouri Southern, Stephanie Harter Gilmore, '05, wasn't sure what her major would be. Her outlook changed after she auditioned for a scholarship with Bud Clark, former director of chorale studies. Clark told Gilmore, "I can get you more money if you major in music." That opportunity set her on a path that eventually led to a stage career that has taken Gilmore to the lights of New York City.

"I'm based in New York, but the things I have booked since I have been there have been national tours and the regional gigs that keep me out of the city," Gilmore said. "Only *Carmen's Place*, which was the show I was doing last spring, was actually in New York City. It's kind of why you go there, just because the auditions are there and Broadway is the ultimate goal."

Gilmore spent this past summer in Maine, performing in *Happy Days the Musical*. She returned to New York City to begin rehearsals for the national tour of *Nice Work If You Can Get It*.

"I'll be playing Duchess Estonia Dulworth, a dream role for me," she said. "I saw this show on Broadway a few years ago, and thought to myself, 'If I have to wait 10 years, 20, or more, I am going to play that role.' It happened a lot sooner than I fathomed."

The tour also stopped close to home at venues in October in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and St. Louis. In February, the tour plays in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

Gilmore's ultimate goal to perform on Broadway began with her experience at Southern, where international opportunities prepared her to leave Joplin and eventually pursue a stage career.

"When you grow up in 'small-town America' how do you get out and explore the world?" said Gilmore. "Every time I would visit another university, I would ask, 'What are your study abroad opportunities?' And none of them matched Missouri Southern."

As a result, Gilmore spent the spring 2005 semester in Scotland studying music at Edinburgh Napier University. She also traveled with the music department to England, Ireland and Wales as part of Southern's course opportunities.

Gilmore's family has a rich history with the Lions. Her grandfather Dr. Leland Easterday taught at Southern, and her parents, sister and cousin earned degrees from MSSU. Several others in her family are educators, but performance is where Gilmore put her focus.

"All told, it was one of the most challenging experiences of my life, but, of course, I wouldn't trade it for anything," she said. "If I could change one thing I wish I would have studied abroad more."

After graduation, Gilmore pursued a master's in opera performance at Wichita

State University. Gilmore said Dr. Pat Kluthe, '70, former director of Southern's Honors Program, gave her inspiration to keep going forward in life: "You make your own path and having a well-rounded liberal arts education will give you all the tools you need to find your way and probably to create something new rather than just following something that's laid out for you because this isn't a vo-tech institution, it's a liberal arts college for a reason and you're being trained for life."

Dr. Susan Smith, professor of voice, also offered advice.

"Susan said to me, 'Specialize in grad school,'" Gilmore said. "That was the first time anyone ever said the words grad school to me that I didn't completely block them out."

Smith recognized Gilmore's potential at that time to succeed academically.

"My belief was she had the talent; she had the academic ability to do so, and (graduate school) would be the next stepping stone in her career," said Smith. "I kind of see Stephanie eventually going back and getting her doctorate. I don't know if that's in her mind yet, but she's a

very good teacher and she's a very good choral director."

Gilmore completed her master's in 2009, spent a summer in Italy, taught a few years at Wichita State while building a healthy portfolio, and then moved to New York.

She is still looking for her moment on Broadway.

"Someday that will happen, but until then, I'm just enjoying the journey," Gilmore said.

— Robin Fjelstad, '15

Stephanie performed close to Joplin in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and St. Louis in October, and will perform in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, on February 17.

Go to niceworkontour.com for more information on the national tour of *Nice Work If You Can Get It*.

To learn more about Stephanie Harter Gilmore, visit her website at www.stephaniehartergilmore.com



Heart of a Lion



Dr. Pat Lipira, vice president for academic affairs, receives an award from Jerald Andrews, president and executive director of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame, at her induction ceremony on April 24 in Springfield, Missouri. Lipira, former softball coach, is the winningest coach over all sports at Missouri Southern. — Photo by Justin Maskus

Athletic career culminates with a spot in Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

When the young coach arrived at Missouri Southern in 1981, two student-athletes approached her with a question before their first practice: “Are you trying out?” I go, ‘No, I’m your coach,’” said Dr. Pat Lipira, vice president for academic affairs and former Lion softball head coach.

At age 24, it was hard to distinguish Lipira from her players that first year, which was the beginning of a stellar athletic career. She excelled at her first love, softball, and her teams amassed a 632-275 record, capped off with an NCAA National Championship in 1992.

Lipira’s years of success as a head coach earned her a place in the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame. She was inducted April 24 in Springfield, Missouri.

While the ceremony praised her accolades, Lipira admitted her work as an educator was paramount.

“I would never have been a coach and not a teacher,” said Lipira.

In her first year at Southern, Lipira was volleyball and softball coach, intra-mural director and taught two classes. After seven seasons, she needed to reduce her workload. Lipira chose two passions: softball and teaching, something she would continue until 2000.

“Softball is what I grew up with,” Lipira said. “My biggest influence was my dad. He was a competitive, fast-pitch men’s softball player. I grew up going to all of his games, and he coached me.”

Girls high school sports were nonex-

istent when Lipira was a youngster. She spent summers playing softball, where she caught the attention of the head coach at Northwest Missouri. Women’s sports were just starting at the collegiate level in 1974, and Lipira accepted a scholarship to play softball.

Fresh out of college, she taught math and coached volleyball for two years at Liberty (Missouri) High School before pursuing a master’s at Kansas State. Lipira realized higher ed was her calling and took a chance. She applied for an opening at a small college in Joplin and never regretted her decision.

“I really can’t think of one thing that I would have done differently,” said Lipira, who earned her doctorate from Arkansas in 1993. “Every bit of it was important to get me to where I am today.”

She credited others for her success, including former athletic director Sallie Beard, ’71, who hired Lipira right after she completed grad school.

“I was fortunate God put all these hall of famers in my life: my family, my players, my students,” she said. “They crossed my path, and then I was fortunate enough that I was given this opportunity, and I feel fortunate that I jumped on it.”

Former softball player Sheila (Hunter) Heckemeyer, ’87, a teacher and athletic director in the St. Elizabeth, Missouri, school district, traveled to Springfield for the induction.

“She was an amazing coach,” Heckemeyer said. “She had a way of figuring out

each player’s strengths and then motivating her to become even stronger. I believe every athlete that played for her would say the same thing: ‘I would have done anything for her just to make her proud.’”

Renee Heidger, ’87, a teacher and coach at Linn (Missouri) High School, also attended the ceremony and said the honor bestowed on Lipira was well-deserved.

“Pat has been such a positive influence in so many lives,” Heidger said.

Lipira’s coaching philosophy was to keep things fun, and that positive attitude was tested in 2006, when she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

“At first I said why me, but why not me?” she said. “It’s life-changing. I tried to stay as active as I could through all of it. You have no physical control, but you can control mental.”

Support from friends and family got her through surgery and chemotherapy. In 2007, the Lion women’s basketball Pink Game began in Lipira’s honor to raise awareness for breast cancer.

And for this Bearcat turned Lion, she is humbled by what Southern has given her through the years.

“I would say my biggest accomplishment was having the opportunity to have such an impact on young girls for so many years,” Lipira said. “The most rewarding thing for me right now is to see what has happened to the players. I get a real kick out of seeing how accomplished my former players are.”

— Rhonda Clark, ’00



Left, at the September 6 court dedication, Scott Corn hugs his mother, Cindy Corn, after she presents him with jerseys he wore to Missouri Southern basketball games coached by his dad, Robert Corn, '78. Center, Scott, Rob, Cindy and Robert Corn watch a presentation on the coach's career in Leggett & Platt Athletic Center. Right, Rob accepts a framed remembrance of a Joplin Globe article that featured the young Corn as "Face of the program" at Southern. The dedication began with a donor reception in Connor Ballroom followed by the unveiling of Robert Corn Court. — Photos by Molly Schons, '15

Etched in the hardwood

Home court reflects the legacy of Robert Corn.

Connor Ballroom was colored in more green and gold than usual. As people filtered inside, members of the Missouri Southern Alumni Association and Robert Corn, '78, welcomed them.

Corn shook hands, gave hugs and said hello to familiar faces. The room resembled a family reunion, as friends and family of the university gathered on September 6 to celebrate, look forward and remember.

Early this year, the Missouri Southern Alumni Association Board of Directors assembled a committee and launched a campaign dubbed Full Court Press. The goal was to raise \$100,000 to name the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center basketball court "Robert Corn Court," in honor of the Lions' longtime men's head basketball coach. After a few short months, the committee raised more than \$173,000, reaffirming the overwhelming support for the Corn family. But, Corn was quick to acknowledge others at the reception in Connor before the court dedication.

"This is more than just Robert Corn — a lot more than me," said Corn, who retired as head coach this spring after

25 years. "There are a lot of people who have been involved in making this happen. My family's been very instrumental in any success we've had."

University President Alan Marble, '79, also addressed the donors, committee members, friends and family.

"When you think of Coach Corn, you think of family," Marble said, as he looked out over the Southern family gathered to honor Corn's legacy.

Corn recognized his former assistants, teammates and players for their support over the years.

"I want to thank you guys for not only being here but for setting standards in our program that we expected everyone to live by," said Corn.

"When your profession has never been a job, then you know you're doing what you love."

Corn expressed his gratitude to the donors who provided a way for all of this to happen.

"When you surpass your goal by almost 73 percent, then you've had a great deal of help, and we've had that type of support for 25 years," said Corn.

The funds, by Corn's request, will be

used to provide annual scholarships for a student-athlete who needs a fifth year to complete his/her education and for a member of the Southern pep band.

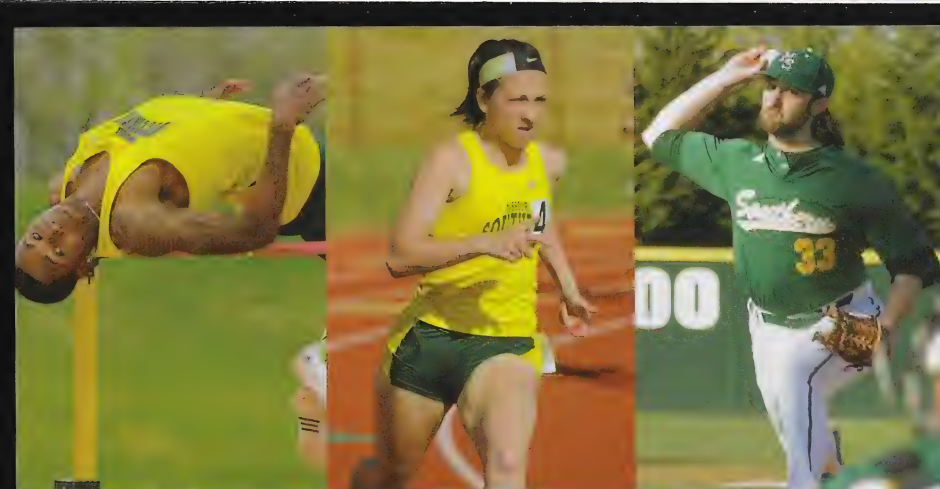
The court dedication was held in Leggett & Platt Athletic Center. Corn and his family pulled away the gold cover to reveal the new Robert Corn Court bearing Corn's name and signature. Donors had their pictures taken with Corn on sections of the court they helped fund. A plaque with donor names was placed in Leggett & Platt.

The ceremony also included remarks from Mark Lloyd, '99, and Shally Lundien, '95 and '03, past and current presidents of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors; Keith Adams, '49, and Mike Pound, who co-chaired the campaign; Lee Elliff Pound, '86, alumni director; and a special proclamation presented by state Senator Ron Richard, '69.

As Corn looked to Southern's future, his attitude was one of thankfulness.

"After the good lord calls me home, students will continue to benefit from these scholarships," Corn said. "And for this, I am very grateful."

— Jeremy Jones, '15



Left, senior Clark Tanksley glides over the bar during a high jump event. Center, junior Amber White earned All-American honors in the 400-meter. Right, senior David Reese leans into his pitch as he powers one toward the plate. Reese was one of four Lions named to the All-MIAA squad. — Photos by Justin Maskus and Mike Gullett

It's a wrap ...

Southern excels in spring events

Men's Outdoor Track & Field

The season started strong with a second-place finish at the MIAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in Joplin. Junior sprinter Jeff Fraley won both the 60-meter and the 200-meter, picking up NCAA automatic qualifying marks in each event. He won the High Point Award, but the Lions finished short of winning the event.

Fraley was one of six Lions to be named All-Region, joining Michael Juergens, Brady Melugin, Clark Tanksley, Darion Boure and Eric Schott. All but Tanksley qualified for the 2014 NCAA Division II Indoor Championships in Winston Salem, North Carolina. Juergens, Melugin and Boure earned All-American performances, but the Lions lost Fraley to the outdoor season when the speedster injured himself in the sprints.

The Lions finished sixth at the MIAA Outdoor Championships and had four named All-Region. Schott, Boure and Tanksley were repeat selections from indoors, while Raymond Woldtvedt earned honors, as well. The Lions sent five to Nationals in Allendale, Michigan: Schott, Tanksley, Boure, Woldtvedt and Melugin. Boure broke his school record in the triple jump and picked up All-American status with a third-place finish in the event.

The team finished the year ranked ninth nationally in the Coaches Association overall points standings.

Women's Outdoor Track & Field

The team was young, but that didn't stop the Lions from performing at their normal high standard. The team finished second at the MIAA Indoor Track and Field Championships, and 11 individuals earned 14 All-MIAA honors. Six Lions were named All-Region: Amber White, Brittani Reagan, Kaitlyn Belisle, Kylie Cornman, Kindra Emberton and Kaylee Morgan.

White, Cornman, Emberton, Morgan, Reagan and Whitney Hardy were selected to compete in the Indoor National Championships in Winston Salem, North Carolina. Morgan earned All-American honors in the

long jump on day one; White picked up All-American honors in the 400-meter on day two.

The team carried success into the outdoor season, where the Lions finished fourth at the outdoor meet. Four Lions earned All-MIAA honors in six events. Reagan and Belisle earned multiple All-MIAA honors, and Hardy and Cornman picked up hardware, as well.

Six athletes were named All-Region: White, Reagan, Belisle, Morgan, Cornman and Hardy. The Lions qualified seven for the NCAA Outdoor National Championships in Allendale, Michigan: Reagan, Morgan, Hardy, Cornman, Emberton, White and Belisle. Cornman picked up All-American status in the shot put, placing third in the event.

Baseball (24-26)

The season started hot for the Lions as Southern won its first 12 games, a Missouri Southern record, to start the season, and the team was ranked as high as 14th nationally.

Injuries would slow the Lions' pace, and the team finished the season 24-26.

Southern had four players named to the All-MIAA squad: seniors David Reese, Logan Moon, Stephen Vaughn and sophomore Payton Walker.

Reese was named a second-team pick after ranking 14th nationally in strikeout-to-walk ratio and leading the league in strikeouts looking. He finished second in the MIAA in ERA, with a 2.55 mark, and finished his career ranked second in single-season appearances. Moon was a third-team pick and ranked eighth in the MIAA in hit-

Left, Logan Moon was a six-round pick for the KC Royals in the MLB Draft. Center, senior Dawn Grass is the all-time home-run leader in Southern program history. Right, junior Ryan Buerk swung his way to qualify as an individual for the NCAA Regional Tournament in St. Louis. — Photos by Justin Maskus and Chuck Yahng



ting, finishing the year with a .386 mark.

Vaughn and Walker were honorable mention picks. Vaughn appeared in 30 games, setting a new MSSU single-season record and finishing the year with a 2.88 ERA. Walker led the team with five wins and finished the year ranked sixth in the MIAA in both ERA and strikeouts.

Moon concluded the season for the Lions and was selected by the Kansas City Royals in the sixth round of the Major League Baseball Draft. The pick is the highest by a Lion and is the seventh highest by a player in the MIAA. In his first season of pro baseball, Moon was assigned to the Burlington Royals in the Appalachian League. As of August 29, Moon had set a new Royals single-season record with 74 hits and was in contention for the League batting title, with a .329 average.

Softball (19-35)

Despite some tough-luck injuries and Mother Nature wreaking early-season havoc, the team ended with a 19-35 overall record, finishing 11th in the MIAA. The season yielded strong performances, highlighted by senior first baseman Dawn Grass, who was the all-time home-run leader in Southern program history. She finished her career with 28 career home runs. The Lions set team single-season Southern records for home runs, with 30 shattering the previous high of 24 set in 2005, and doubles, with 81 surpassing the previous high of 76 set in 1995.

The Lions had eight players earn All-MIAA honors. Senior right fielder Shelby Romines repeated as second-team selection after hitting .315 from the plate, scoring a team-high 30 runs, and driving in 32

RBIs. Freshman designated player Alexah Replogle earned second-team honors, after finishing fourth on the team hitting .310 and was third on the club with 39 hits, including eight doubles. In addition to Romines and Replogle, six other Lions earned All-MIAA honorable mention honors: Grass, outfielder Chloe Brown, catcher Kathryn Goins, short-stop Michala Wood, utility Rachel Harding and outfielder Jessica Castoe.

After combining to win a total of 15 games as freshmen, sophomore pitchers Haley Kinnison and Sarah Williams totaled 18 wins this spring, starting 49 of the Lions' 54 games. They combined to throw 26 complete games and five shutouts. Kinnison led with 12 wins, pitching 15 complete games, and a team-high 148.2 innings, striking out 111 batters.

Grass also finished her career ranked in the top five in six other categories: second in at-bats (630), walks (87), third in games played (212) and putouts (1,258), fourth in runs batted in (122), and tied for fifth with 183 hits. Despite Grass, Romines, Brown and fellow senior Brooklyn Farrell moving on, the future looks bright for this club next season. Five All-MIAA players and all three pitchers will return as they look to make a run at postseason play in 2015.

Golf

The season concluded with an individual appearance in the NCAA Regionals and the team finished in the top six of four separate events, with a third-place finish in the last event of the fall season.

Southern started the fall season at the Missouri Intercollegiate. Freshman Taylor Lansford led the Lions and finished tied for 18th overall. At the first MIAA points event

of the season, senior Andrew Maier led the squad and finished tied for 27th. At the St. Cloud State Invite, the team finished eighth, and Lansford finished tied for sixth, just three strokes off the lead.

Junior Ryan Buerk finished fourth in the team's next event in Oklahoma.

Lansford was the lead scorer for the third time of the fall season at Central Missouri, finishing tied for 16th and carding the low-round of the year for the Lions with a 69 in the opening round. A third-place team finish in the final fall event of the year saw the best outing, standings wise, for the Lions, as Southern was four strokes from a team title. Sophomore Ethan Hutcheson finished tied for third in the event.

The spring started off with an eighth-place finish at Arkansas Tech, and Buerk finished tied for 10th. Buerk led the team with a 19th-place finish at North Alabama in week two, while posting a 19th-place showing at Central Oklahoma, helping the Lions to a sixth-place team score there.

The Lions placed sixth as a team at Henderson State, and Buerk had his best showing of the year, with a two-over finish to place third overall. The Lions finished the regular season in ninth-place at the MIAA Championships. Buerk finished tied for 15th in the event, and the Lions finished the season in 10th in the MIAA standings.

Buerk qualified as an individual for the NCAA Regional Tournament and played at Fox Run Country Club in suburban St. Louis. After two rounds, Buerk found himself tied for 12th, but finished out of contention for a National Tournament berth.

— Justin Maskus,
Athletics Media Relations Director, and
Travis Blanshan, Athletics Media Relations Assistant

Lions notebook

Former Lions receive induction into 2014 Athletics Hall of Fame

The Missouri Southern Athletics Department presented the 2014 Athletics Hall of Fame Class September 27 during half-time at the Southern vs. Washburn football game. The inductees included four former student-athletes from football, baseball and men's and women's track and field.

Tim Doss, '74, (baseball, 1972-74), Brad Cornelsen (football, 1995-98), Brian Lyons, '04, (men's track and field/cross coun-

try, 1999-2004), and Margaret (Miklovic) Lyons, '02, (women's track and field/cross country, 1998-2002) were also honored at a social event the evening of September 26 and were inducted at a luncheon before the game. The group also featured the first married couple to be inducted in the same class, Margaret and Brian Lyons.

The Missouri Southern Athletics Hall of Fame was established to recognize and enhance school tradition by honoring former athletic letter winners and/or coaches

who have shown distinctive, unique or exceptional ability while at Southern or since graduation. The honorees must be Southern graduates and have been out at least 10 years since the individual last participated in athletics at Southern. With the 2014 class, the MSSU Athletics Hall of Fame includes 109 members and two teams.

— Justin Maskus,
Athletics Media Relations Director



2014 LYDIA MCGRIFF OUTSTANDING GRADUATE



Lydia McGriff graduated in spring 2014 with a bachelor's in education. — Photo by Curtis Almeter, '13

Words of gratitude punctuate annual speech.

Thank you for coming to support the graduates of 2014; I know everyone here is proud of someone. This class, just like every graduating class of MSSU, is accomplished in many different ways. This celebration is just a sample of the hard work and dedication the graduates have accomplished.

Fellow graduates — Congratulations! You have all worked day and night to get here and you should be very proud of yourselves. Good luck in all your future endeavors and never forget the education you have received here and the memories you have made.

Alumni Association and the Board of Directors, thank you for maintaining support of our University and ensuring our future success for generations to come.

Selection Committee: Ms. Shally Lundien, Dr. Al Cade, and Coach Robert Corn, thank you for making me feel at ease when I was so nervous I could barely walk into the Alumni House.

The Honors Program, thank you for investing in me by giving me a scholarship and showing me that college really is a community. Thank you for pushing me to succeed in my thesis and showing me that research doesn't have to be that scary. Also, thank you for moving the office to Taylor — it worked great for me!

Thank you to Dr. Michael Garoutte for providing a great start to my time in Honors. It was an amazing first year!

Teacher Education Department, for teaching me to keep my end in sight and to never, ever give up on the education and love of a child. You have prepared me well for my career as I begin teaching at Webb City Middle School this fall, and I will be forever indebted to you for the support and encouragement you have shown me, as will all of your graduates.

I have learned in student teaching at Carl Junction Intermediate that no training can prepare you for everything you will encounter as a teacher, but our Teacher Education Department provides a solid foundation that will guide your decisions and actions to be the best they can be. I have learned that no matter what challenges I face in or out of the classroom, my passion for teaching will always endure thanks to the amazing experiences I have had in Taylor Hall.

Career Services, thank you for providing me an amazing job for all four years of college. I couldn't have asked for a better place to be or to work with better people. You taught me to be kind and compassionate to all people and to always value what

I have. Thank you for the thousands of laughs we shared, the independence to grow as a professional, and for the hard work you taught me to value — especially the mopping that one time.

Student Affairs, for supporting Student Senate, an organization I have been a part of for four years. Thank you for guiding us to make wise and informed decisions that always better our campus and campus community. Thank you to the Senate for being professional and showing students on campus that their voices are heard and that we really can make things happen — you may never venture over to the other side of campus, but there is a really big bronze lion that deserves a look.

The University, for four wonderful years of education, life-changing experiences, and for the lifelong bonds I have made. I know this institution has a great future, and as a Lion, I will continue to be part of this campus community, and I encourage my fellow graduates to do so as well. College may only have lasted for four years, but the experiences I have had will inspire me for the rest of my life.

I would like to thank my boyfriend Brett for being patient with me and not getting mad at me when I cancel plans for the fourth time.

Finally, I would like to thank my family for showing me love, patience and encouragement through four years of college when I know I could be a pain sometimes. Thank you for making me the person I am and trusting me to remain true to myself in all my challenges and accomplishments. Thank you especially for coming to see me in London; I will never forget the amazing time we had, even when we trekked about 10 miles in Dover to see the White Cliffs. It was worth it! Everything I have today, I owe to you, and I will strive to repay you for everything you have done.

Again, thank you to the University. I can't wait to forever be a Lion!

— Outstanding Graduate speech given
by Lydia McGriff, '14, on April 23, 2014

ABOUT LYDIA MCGRIFF: Lydia graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education from Missouri Southern State University in 2014. She teaches fifth-grade math for the Webb City, Missouri, school district. To see a video interview with Lydia, go to: <http://youtu.be/cxv8ej2QJds>

ABOUT THE AWARD: Established in 1972, the Outstanding Graduate Award at Missouri Southern is given to a graduating senior by the Alumni Association for outstanding achievements in the classroom and significant contributions made to benefit the university and/or community. Awarded each spring at the Honors Convocation, it recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of MSSU's finest students. Candidates are nominated by MSSU faculty, staff and administration. The Alumni Awards Committee, comprised of Alumni Board members and faculty, review all nominations, conduct personal interviews of the finalists, and recommend recipient(s) to the Missouri Southern Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Alums find rewards helping others

Alum, counselor receives state honor

Robert Lundien, a 1996 graduate of Missouri Southern, was recently selected as the Missouri Secondary School Counselor of the Year.

A counselor at Staley High School in Kansas City, Lundien was notified of the selection earlier this month.

He was recognized during the Missouri School Counselor Association's Fall Conference, held November 2-4 at Tan-Tar-A Resort.

After graduating from Missouri Southern with a degree in music education, Lundien's teaching career

included serving as band director in Diamond, a counselor for Neosho High School and working in special education for the Webb City School District.

While his first love was music, he said he felt a calling to transition into the counseling field.

"There were kids struggling with outside issues and influences on their lives and bringing them to school," he said. "I started the graduate program at Missouri State and realized that counseling was something I wanted to do in order to help students in a different capacity. It was a hard decision to let go of the band world because it had been a major part of my life."

Lundien said that his time at Southern left him feeling prepared to succeed in the teaching field.

"I really felt like the classroom experience and

going out into the schools helped me have a better knowledge and understanding of what it would be like," he said.

"The quality of education I received was top notch. I felt like the professors went out of their way to make sure we were prepared for the real world.

"We were taught early on in the music department that achieving success and results will take hard work. That has carried me through teaching and counseling. Making sure

the kids are succeeding is a constant process that never ends."

While he now lives in Kansas City, Lundien has remained involved with Southern. He currently serves on a teacher education committee that is in charge of scholarships.

"It's quite an honor for one of our alums to be selected for this award," said Dr. Al Cade, dean of the Missouri Southern School of Education. "We are so excited for Rob."

Couple join Peace Corps in Colombia

Alexandra and Caleb Reed, both 2011 graduates of Missouri Southern, were accepted into the Peace Corps and are now stationed in Colombia.

They are working as English teacher trainers, providing formal and informal support on methodologies, subject content and resource development.

They stayed with a host family for three months to learn the local language and culture before being sworn in and assigned to a community.

While at Southern, Caleb obtained a bachelor's degree in English writing, then a master's in applied linguistics from the University of Massachusetts. Alexandra received her bachelor's in elementary education and taught second and third grade in Neosho, as well as English as a Second Language.

MSSU assists Joplin reading students

For the second year, students from two Joplin elementary schools are coming to Missouri Southern to receive extra help in developing reading skills.

Nearly 50 students from McKinley and Irving elementary schools are brought to campus one afternoon each week to work with students in the teacher education program.

"It serves as a practicum for Education 343/470 courses," said Dr. Deborah Brown, department chair of teacher education. "Our students get experience in administering assessments and delivering reading instruction to them in small groups."

Brown said the sessions also allow for one-on-one work as well as group learning.

"It accomplishes two things: bringing the elementary students to campus gives them assistance in reading and also gives them exposure to a university," Brown said.

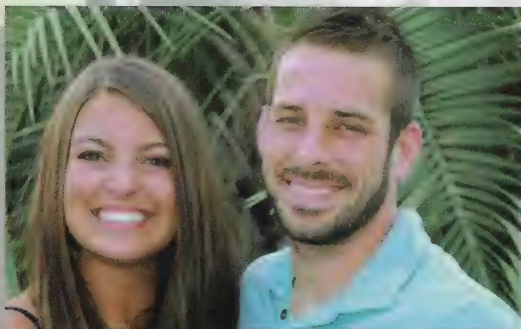
— From staff reports



Rob Lundien, '96

Counselor

Staley High School, Kansas City, Mo.



Alexandra and Caleb Reed, 2011 Missouri Southern graduates, joined the Peace Corps this past year and are stationed in Colombia, where they work as English teacher trainers. — Submitted Photo

Faculty awards, new course offered

Fletcher, Wells receive recognition

Two members of the Department of Biology and Environmental Health were recognized during the annual all-faculty meeting on August 14.

Dr. Scott Wells was selected as one of the recipients of the Outstanding Teacher Awards.

A biology professor who has been with Missouri Southern for 21 years, he was described in nominations from students as “rigorous but fair” and “by far the most helpful, caring and professional teacher that I’ve ever had.”

The Outstanding Faculty Advisor award was also announced.

That award was given to Dr. Mike Fletcher, a professor of environmental health.

He was described in the nominations as being “personally invested in his students and the program” and someone who “puts the students’ success first by arranging his schedule around student needs.”

Dr. Jennifer Dennis, head of the biology department, said it came as no surprise that two members of her department were honored for their contributions.

“We’re really proud that our students have access to teachers of their standing,” she said.

Board honors late English professor

During September’s meeting, the Board of Governors approved a unanimous recommendation from the Department of English and Philosophy faculty members to award Emeritus Faculty status to Dr. Art Saltzman.

Emeritus status is a title typically designed for retiring or retired professors.

Saltzman, who died unexpectedly in 2008, taught at Missouri Southern for more than 25 years.

He taught a wide range of courses, from freshman writing and creative writing to literature.

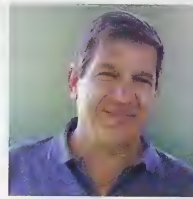
He received the Outstanding Teacher award in 1992 and a Missouri Governor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2003.

During his career at Southern, he published nine books, with a 10th that was published in 2009.

“For over six years now, Art’s colleagues and friends have deeply missed his steady insistence on what we could do and what we should do, his unfailing humor, his sympathy and, quite simply his elegance, his class,” a

nomination letter submitted to the board by Dr. Joy Dworkin stated.

“We aim to remember every day that we want and hope to inspire our students as Art did. As we have reflected on everything he embodied and the depth and extent of his contribution to Missouri Southern, we can imagine no one more deserving of the honor of Emeritus Faculty status than Dr. Art Saltzman.”



Dr. Art Saltzman

Late Professor of English
Missouri Southern Emeritus Faculty

Bio course incorporates teamwork

Biology 475: Advanced Human Dissection has been added to the curriculum at Missouri Southern.

The new class focuses on teamwork and critical thinking, and covers anatomy, radiology and pathology. It is the most advanced undergraduate class in the area, giving Southern students a chance to experience how classes are ran in medical universities.

The Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences provides two un-dissected cadavers a year for class use.

The primary goal is to use a clinical approach to develop critical thinking to determine the cause of death.

Students work in groups, which makes teamwork a necessity to achieve that goal.

“In this class, students connect the dots to come up with their own answer,” said Dr. Alla Peters, associate of biology professor.

By treating the body as the students’ first patient, they’re given a greater understanding of the human body and the ailments that can affect it.

Students fill out an autopsy form at the end of the semester that includes all of the data that confirms the cause of death.

— From staff reports



Vedmia Fonkem, who graduated from Missouri Southern in 2012 and is a student at the University of Health Sciences in Saint Kitts, studies in Missouri Southern’s cadaver lab. A new course, Advanced Human Dissection, was added to the curriculum this year. — File Photo

Partnership, master's highlight biz

Ukraine students partner with MSSU

Online classes started this fall for eight students from Ukraine who are working to obtain their specialist in management certificate from Missouri Southern. The students from the Odessa National Maritime University will arrive in January in Joplin to complete the coursework necessary to receive the certification. The program is designed to develop students' business management skills as they learn about working in ports and mechanical engineering, said Dr. Chris Moos, associate professor of international business.



Five students from the Odessa National Maritime University take the Michigan English as a Second Language test on July 1 at ONMU. — Submitted Photo

"The specialist in management certificate is geared toward nonbusiness majors," he said. "The class structure ties in with their first semester of classes for their master's degree. They're supported and mentored by their faculty in English. In the spring, they'll come here to take the last four classes to complete their certificate."

The conflict that began with Russia's intervention in Ukraine earlier this year created logistical problems in implementing the partnership, but Moos said things came together just in time.



Lance Gooder, a 2014 Missouri Southern graduate who now works in internal auditing for Leggett & Platt, discusses stock analysis in Portfolio Management in fall 2013. — File Photo

"We were once as high as 12 students, but two got called to serve in the army given the current war in the east, and two others were offered jobs on ships outside the country," he said. "(The fighting) has caused consternation because of the instability of the government and, of course, the economy has suffered a bit."

Dr. John Groesbeck, dean of the Robert W. Plaster School of Business, sees the partnership as a way to not only provide an excellent education opportunity but for Southern to

make an impact on a global scale.

Management master's begins in '15

This fall, the Board of Governors gave its approval to a plan to offer a new master's degree program through the Robert W. Plaster School of Business. On September 19, the board learned the school is seeking permission from Missouri's Higher Education Commission to launch a Master of Science in Management degree beginning in fall 2015. The degree has two tracks — human resource management and general management.

Part-time students will be able to complete the degree in a minimum of five semesters, while full-time students can complete it in three.

"It's a good next step for us given our strength in human resource management," said Dr. John Groesbeck, dean of the school. "It will be a 30-credit-hour degree, with 21 hours of required core and nine hours of flexibility. Students could get their master's in management and develop their own tailor-made emphasis track in any number of subjects."

Software integrates into classrooms

The School of Business has started to integrate Systems, Applications & Products in Data Processing into the classroom.



"It's never been introduced in this area before," said Dr. Blake Nielson, assistant professor of management and management marketing. "SAP is one of the largest software companies in the world. More than 60 percent of the world's transactions touch SAP in some form or fashion."

The enterprise resource planning software can help tie together all of the functions of a business — from product creation to human resources and customer relations.

"By joining, we get to use real data," said Nielson. "It's the same data that's used to run business process. It's currently used in classes to reinforce topics that students have already learned. We plan to more fully integrate it into the classrooms."

Though SAP has only been used for a short time, Nielson said the School of Business is already seeing an impact.

"Global and local companies use SAP," he said. "We're seeing positive results through recruiting and job placements. When you mention SAP, it builds instant credibility in the program."

— From staff reports

Training, donation among activities

Medical interns train at Southern

A dozen new medical interns at Freeman Health System practiced their skills during an event held in July at the Health Sciences Center.

The Freeman personnel attended lectures on different protocols and conducted practice sessions in the university's simulation lab, said Caleb Lewis, simulation coordinator at Missouri Southern. The interns used the simulation lab mannequins to practice creating emergency airways, inserting a central IV line, caring for patients in shock and other critical care procedures.

"This is the first year Freeman held training here," said Lewis. "We're hoping we can have them out here every year."

"Research shows that residents who participate in such simulations are far more proficient at critical care procedures than those taught at the bedside," said Dr. Robert McNab, Freeman Graduate Medical Education program director. "Freeman is incredibly grateful to Missouri Southern State University for welcoming our interns. The university has a tremendous amount of resources that will help these students to someday be skilled physicians."

It wasn't the only time the center was used for training purposes this year.

That same month, paramedic students from throughout southwest Missouri came to Southern to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians Paramedic Practical Exam.

Students rotated through 10 stations, including intubation, static and dynamic cardiology, and patient assessment. Paramedics in Missouri have to go through the national certification process to become licensed.

METS donates ambulance to program

The Missouri Southern Department of Emergency Medical Services received a new set of wheels this fall.

Since 2011, the EMS department has been borrowing an ambulance for training from Joplin's Metro Emergency Transport System, but when Jason Smith from METS offered to give the department an ambulance of its own, Brett Peine, department chair, gratefully accepted.

"We have been very lucky," said Peine. "He asked if we needed an ambulance because he had one that he could give to us. He just donated it to us."

Although the students have been using a borrowed ambulance for many years, Peine said that having an on-campus ambulance will allow the department to test students in new ways.

A group of students will take turns checking the ambulance's fuel and functionality throughout the day — a vital action that is enforced in hospitals to ensure efficiency.

While students are in class, they can be alerted of simulated emergency situations where they figure out how to function inside the confined space of an ambulance — something they can't learn in a simulation lab.

"Most of these students will work in ambulances, or in a ditch, or on the floor," said Peine.

"Taking blood pressure or starting an IV in the back of a vehicle is totally different than in a lab. All the noises you hear while trying to stand up as you go around a corner — these things need to be practiced and students need to be prepared."

Since students won't need to spend extra time learning how to adjust to an ambulance once they're hired, having hands-on experience in an ambulance gives them a head-start to their careers.

"This mentally prepares them to adjust to real-world situations," said Peine.

He plans to have the ambulance outfitted in MSSU's logo and hopes to have it parked at the home football games. An ambulance specifically for MSSU is something unique that he and the rest of the department are glad to bring to the university.

— From staff reports



Sherry Whiteman, clinical instructor in respiratory therapy at Missouri Southern, explains ventilator modes and settings to interns from Freeman Health System in July in the simulation lab in the Julio S. León Health Sciences Center. — Photos by Curtis Almeter, '13



A Metro Emergency Transport System ambulance, donated to the Missouri Southern Department of Emergency Medical Services, helps students test in new ways with real-world situations.

Lion Tales

By Robin Fjelstad, '15

"Being faithful to each other — that's a huge secret to success, then we have a platform of strength to move forward on."

Ray and Lana (Pugh) Mathis

Missouri Southern State University 1969 alumni and owners of Carthage True Value Hardware and The Registry



Missouri Southern 1969 alumni Ray and Lana (Pugh) Mathis own Carthage True Value Hardware and The Registry in Carthage, Missouri. They opened the businesses in 1982 and attribute their success to hard work and a strong relationship with each other. The couple discuss their days at Southern and reminisce with the Crossroads yearbooks during an interview. — Photo by Willie Brown, '14

RAY & LANA (PUGH) MATHIS

Who: Missouri Southern alumni Ray, bachelor's in education, history, psychology, sociology and English, 1969; and Lana, bachelor's in elementary education, 1969.

What: Owners of Carthage (Missouri) True Value Hardware and The Registry

How the business got started: Lana was a guidance counselor for the Carthage School district until the birth of the couple's daughter. After that, they began looking for an investment and a business that would allow them to work together every day. The hardware store had become available about that time, but Lana insisted that they also add something more that she would enjoy doing. They have owned, operated and grown both businesses since 1982.

Secret to Success: "Being faithful to each other — that's a huge secret to success, then we have a platform of strength to move forward on. To look at who is often our silent partner, that's the Lord that's a foundational point ... if we seek his direction, we will be moving along a pretty good path," Ray said.

Greatest Challenge: "Making ourselves take time off is the hardest thing. We are both workaholics. But we have some good friends and good family who kind of insist once in a while," Lana said.

Advice: "If you choose to go into business, mind your own business. Don't worry about what other people are doing. Worry that you are doing well at what you are doing," Ray said.

Southern Memories: Ray worked on the Crossroads yearbook for three years, beginning at the downtown campus location. "Each year the school added to the number of years in the program," Ray said. "Crossroads was located in the mansion the first year at the new campus. There was a little bit of excitement, a little bit of mystery, and a little bit of romance because you were going to one of the most lavish mansions in the county, and it was becoming our school." Ray and Lana met when the yearbook offices were moved to the girls locker room. "There were always big dances held in the parking lot of First National Bank, and our ears were ringing from the music of the band for two days afterward. We were the first full graduates of that college (campus) and it was so exciting for everyone," said Lana. "It was a wonderful day."

Have an entrepreneurial tale to tell? Send Lion Tales info to Alumni.Assoc@mssu.edu or call 417-659-LION.

MILES OF SMILES



Jack's Ice Cream assists with fundraising event for scholarship fund.



Top, Robert Corn, '78, Missouri Southern Alumni Association alumni director-athletics, delivers Jack's Ice Cream to Janet Stafford and Patricia Murphy Marston with UMB Bank on July 10 in Carthage, Missouri. Above left, Deputy Mikey Robertson, '06 (left); Sarah Meador, '02; Carrie Jones, '13; and Machaela Fordyce, '13, with the Jasper County Sheriff's Department also enjoyed treats. Above right, Carthage Chamber of Commerce employees line up for some ice cream.



Above left, Mary Spencer drives the Jack's Ice Cream truck to deliver treats to Carthage-area businesses last summer. Above right, Cornerstone Family Dental also purchased some treats: (from left) Laramie Nichols, Jenny Stines, Dr. Laurel Prichard, Miranda Wolf, Jessica Ensz, '09, and Sarah King, '07. — Photos by Meagan Adams, '08

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream! Who doesn't like ice cream, right?

On July 10, the Missouri Southern Alumni Association joined Jack's Ice Cream, owned by Jack Sportsman, '78, for a fundraising opportunity to sell ice cream to local businesses in Carthage, Missouri.

At H.E. Williams, we ran into Linda Clemons, human resources director. Linda arranged for H.E. Williams to buy ice cream for all of its employees, thus making it a happy work environment.

The fundraiser was a huge success with proceeds going into the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

What was most impressive was how many Southern alums are in the work force doing tremendous things in their professions and communities.

The education and experience they received at MSSU is being put to good use. We appreciate all of the businesses that supported our fundraiser and the opportunity to connect with so many alums.

Special thanks go to Jack and Linda for making this a great day.

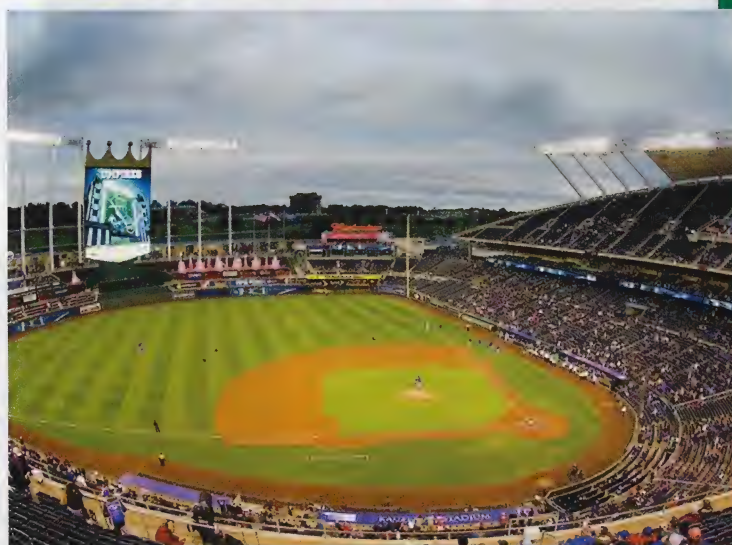
Proud to be a Lion!

— Robert Corn, '78
Alumni Director-Athletics

COLLEGE LIFE



Take us out for some fun!
Alumni enjoy a few summer
and fall activities organized
by your Alumni Association.



The Missouri Southern Alumni Association sponsored several family events this year. Above, alumni family and friends joined Dr. Alan, '79, and Lori Marble on September 12 for a chilly evening at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri, to cheer on the Kansas City Royals. The Royals would go on to play in the 2014 World Series. — Photos by Curtis Almeter, '13



All above, Missouri Southern fans get in a little Springfield Cardinals play August 1 in Springfield, Missouri. — Photos by Meagan Adams, '08



Upcoming Lion Life Events

Scholarship Table Top Party
Dinner, Silent Auction and Fashion Show
6 p.m. on April 7, 2015
Billingsly Student Center, Connor Ballroom

Casino Night
6 p.m. on May 1, 2015
Billingsly Student Center, Connor Ballroom

Check out our spring issue of *Crossroads*, the alumni website and Facebook page for more fun events coming in summer 2015.

Above left and center, alumni, friends and family enjoy a Northwest Arkansas Naturals game June 16 in Springdale, Arkansas. Above right, water was splashing at the Sunday Fun Day on July 13 at the Cunningham Aquatic Center in Joplin, Missouri. — Photos by Meagan Adams, '08, and Curtis Almeter, '13

CLASSNOTES

1970s

John Jeffries, '77, '96, released his novel *The Disappearance* worldwide.

Mark Patterson, '77, is a pediatrician at Carilion Clinic in Roanoke, Virginia. He also teaches medical students and pediatric residents.

Ronda (Wyckoff) Bailey, '78, teaches English and Literature at Fort Scott Community College in Kansas.

Tom Cox, '78, is the head football coach for the Mount Vernon, Missouri, Mountaineers.

Georgia Lynn (England) Hempen, '78, is an accountant at Hempen Associates in Joplin, Missouri.

Fred Witter, '78, is a budget officer at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri.

Ron Bay Jr., '79, released a new book, *Always a Little Heathen*, in October 2014.

1980s

Kimberly Crisler, '80, is an administrative assistant to the CFO & COO at Plaza Medical Center of Fort Worth in Fort Worth, Texas.

Kenneth Hempen, '81, is the vice president of U.S.A. sales for Onward Manufacturing in Joplin, Missouri.

Rod Shurtz, '82, was named Educator of the Year for his outstanding teaching and coaching accomplishments in the Benton Consolidated High School in Illinois.

Gina Rennell Padgett, '83, is the assistant director of alumni relations at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee.

Stan Farmer, '84, is an executive consultant at CGI in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Jerry Hoffman, '84, is a language and culture coordinator at the U.S. Army Cadet Command in Fort Know, Kentucky.

Tony Wright, '84, is a program planning director and women's health director for Economic Security Corporation of Southwest Area. He has achieved his Certified Community Action Professional status.

Nancy Ohmart, '85, was awarded the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Golden Apple Award for her excellence in teaching at College Heights Christian School in Joplin, Missouri.

Dr. Tia Strait, '85, was awarded the Athena Award by the Carthage Chamber of

Commerce for her contributions of time and energy spent to promote the well-being of others, especially women.

Chris Adams, '86, is a PLTW Biomedical Instructor at Carthage R-9 School District in Carthage, Missouri.

Jeff Brown, '86, is a software engineer at Mixon Hill in Blue Springs, Missouri.

Jeffery Long, '86, is a sales representative for Leggett & Platt in Chandler, Arizona.

Colon Kelly, '88, is a sales engineer at Haas Factory Outlet Philadelphia Division of Lance Company in Buck County, Pennsylvania.

1990s

Michele (Kelly) Bolton, '90, is the executive director for the Miami Area Chamber of Commerce in Miami, Oklahoma.

Robin Smith, '91, is an assistant community development director for Economic Security Corporation of Southwest Area. She has achieved her Certified Community Action Professional status.

Dennis Wardell, '92, is an engineering manager at Vermillion Inc. in Wichita, Kansas.

Christine Szekeres, '93, is the marketing, development and IT director at SAMBICA in Seattle, Washington.

Shawn McCormick, '94, is a spine consultant at Medtronic Spine & Biologics in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Andrew Patterson, '94, holds a Master of Health Administration from Saint Louis University. He is the executive director of planning and strategic development at The University of Kansas Hospital. He resides in Louisburg, Kansas, with his wife and four children.

Rod Smith, '94, was named No. 3 in Top 25 Undrafted Free Agents of the last 25 years by Football.com.

Jennifer Starchman, '94, was awarded the Carthage Chamber of Commerce Golden Key Award for her excellence in teaching at Carthage (Missouri) High School.

Rob Lundien, '96, Counseling Department Chair at Staley High School, North Kansas City School District, was selected as the Greater Kansas City School Counseling Association Secondary Counselor of the Year. Lundien was recognized earlier this spring at the GKCSA annual spring banquet in Independence, Missouri. He is in the running for the Missouri School Counselor

Association Secondary School Counselor of the Year award, which will be announced at this fall's annual MSCA conference at Tan-Tar-A. In addition, Lundien also completed half marathon number 25 this past June, by running the Hospital Hill Half Marathon in Kansas City.

Shelley Smart, '96, is owner of Shelley Smart CPA in Bentonville, Arkansas.

John Filben, '97, is founder of Down Customer Consulting Group LLC. In Healdsburg, California.

Russell Gibson, '97, is the director of IT Operations at UHY Advisors in Houston, Texas.

Stephen Morrow, '97, is a senior accountant at Indigo Sky Casino in Wyandotte, Oklahoma.

Braden McBride, '97, was awarded the Carthage Chamber of Commerce Golden Key Award for his excellence in teaching at Carthage (Missouri) High School.

Joshua Rogers, '97, is a strategic buyer at MTU Friedrichshafen in Germany.

Shane Van Dalsem, '97, is an associate professor of finance at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

Elizabeth Rogers, '98, teaches sixth grade instrumental music at Sloan Creek Intermediate School in the Lovejoy (Texas) School District.

Rick Rogers, '98, is regional general manager for GateHouse Media's Southwest region in Irving, Texas. The region consists of 24 newspapers in three states.

Jeremy Willman, '98, is a software engineering manager at Jack Henry & Associates in Monett, Missouri.

Douglas Phipps, '99, was named small business banking manager for U.S. Bank in Lamar, Missouri.

2000s

Adam "Frederic" Doss, '00, is starring in the horror/comedy movie *Piranha Sharks*.

Stephana Babbitt Bekebrede, '01, handles marketing/customer relations at Tri-Lakes Title & Escrow in Kimberling City, Missouri. She also is the owner of Vino Cellars at the Lake.

Ngugi Kahiha, '01, is in account management/business management at P3Group in Greenville, South Carolina.

Kim Long, '01, is a senior programmer/

analyst at Tyson Foods in Siloam Springs, Arkansas.

James "J.C." Harsh, '02, is a human resources compliance analyst at Wyndham Vacation Ownership in Branson, Missouri.

Katherine Raum, '02, is a contracted communications advisor for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Tanzania.

Emily Lone, '03, was awarded the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Golden Apple Award for her excellence in teaching at St. Mary's Elementary School in Joplin, Missouri.

Terri Birch, '04, is the construction contracts administrator for Quapaw Services Authority of Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma in Quapaw, Oklahoma.

Jacob Brower, '04, is publisher at the *Monett Times & Cassville Democrat* in Monett, Missouri.

Kristen Holland, '04, is a freelance designer in Silicon Valley, California.

Joshua Stout, '04, is a senior software engineer at Jack Henry & Associates in Springfield, Missouri.

Kiki L'Italien, '04, is a senior consultant at Aptify in Alexandria, Virginia.

Zack Odem, '04, director, execMBA program at University of Missouri.

Derek Krogh, '05, is a regional manager at Lakeshore Learning Materials in Springfield, Missouri.

Emily (Helme) McIntyre, '05, is a dental hygienist at My Dentist in Joplin, Missouri.

Jason Phelps, '05, is a corporate IT recruiter at Accenture in Clearwater, Florida.

Tracy (Hass) Cordova, '07, is the Annual Fund & Alumnae Director at Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri.

Khenra Murdock, '07, is a direct support professional at Arc of the Ozarks.

Tyler Swaffar, '07, is a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Joplin, Missouri.

Allen Barbre, '08, signed a three-year extension to play professional football with the Philadelphia Eagles.

Brian McAuliff, '09, is a territory manager at Boyd Metals Inc. in Wichita, Kansas.

Cody Thorn, '09, is the sports editor for the *News-Press* in St. Joseph, Missouri.

20 10s

Jennifer (Willard) Head, '10, was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. She also earned a Master of Science in Academic Advising from Kansas State University and is coordinator of academic advising at Missouri Southern State University.

William Lynch, '10, is assistant prosecuting attorney for Jasper County, Missouri.

Jeff O'Bryan, '10, is a technical supervisor at Jack Henry & Associates in Cypress, Texas.

Darla Wyatt, '10, earned a Master of Arts in Counseling from Assemblies of God Theological Seminary.

Samantha (Cosby) Maritt, '11 works for the Coffeyville (Kansas) Public Schools.

Brad McIntyre, '11, is a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Carl Junction, Missouri.

Caleb, '11, and **Alexandra (Ferguson) Reed**, '11, are serving as Peace Corps volunteers in Colombia.

Dustin Sisney, '11, is a TV advertising professional and actor in Agoura Hills, California.

Rick Couey, '12, is store manager at Golf Galaxy in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota.

David Roberts, '12, is vice president of engineering at DMP Inc. in Ozark, Missouri.

Brandon Weaver, '12, is Senior Infrastructure Automation & DevOps at Sony Network Entertainment International.

Zach Brasher, '13, is in sales development at iRise in Los Angeles, California.

Jessica (Bashaw) Cox, '13, is an international accountant with JB Hunt Transport in Lowell, Arkansas. She is pursuing her MBA through the University of Central Arkansas.

Brett Hecksher, '13, is an executive/development assistant at The Alliance of Resident Theatres in New York City, New York.

Michelle (Pitzer) Atnip, '13, works for the Alzheimer's Association of Northwest Arkansas and is working on her master's in public administration.

Kelsey Scott, '13, is an outreach coordinator at Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Sam Agee, '14, is an IT support center representative Level 2 for Jack Henry Associates in Monett, Missouri.

— Reports from MSSU Alumni Association office

FUTURELIONS

Bethany, '11, and Josh Doak, '03, welcomed Maleah Allison on December 22, 2013.

Tracy (Hass) '07, and Jesse Cordova, '11, welcomed Annabelle Eve on December 30, 2013. She joins older sister, Zoe.

Alicia (Adams) '04 and Dan Jones, '06, welcomed Deacon Garrett on July 13, 2014. He joins older brother, Walker, who was born on March 14, 2011.

Melissa (Holt), '11, and Adan Nance, '11, welcomed baby Gabrielle on August 12, 2014.

Daisy and Eddin Guayito Santiago, '02, welcomed Eddin Mikael on September 11, 2014.

Cynthia Patrick, '08, welcomed twins Camden James Patrick-Crump and Caleb Gabriel Patrick-Crump on September 12, 2014.

LIONLOVE

Nathan, '11, and Sohaila (Etemadi) Hicks, '13, were married on June 14, 2014.

Con and Ruby (Granger) Mills, who fell in love during the Joplin Junior College years, celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary on July 4, 2014.



Have something you want to share with your fellow alumni? Send us your information: Missouri Southern Alumni Association
3950 East Newman Road, Joplin, MO 64801
or via email, AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu



INMEMORIAM

JOPLIN JUNIOR COLLEGE

Mary Ellen Baker

April 28, 2014

Mary Jo (Haase) Barnett-Pattison

May 5, 2014

Charles "Mike" Howard

May 13, 2014

James H. Dale, Jr.

July 11, 2014

Jack J. Hughes

July 18, 2014

Johnny Berry

August 16, 2014

Phyllis Lee McClary Howard

August 22, 2014

Betty J. Gaskin

August 27, 2014

MISSOURI SOUTHERN

Peggy DeLaunay

March 5, 2014

Jo Hanna Ludden

March 8, 2014

Benny E. Miller

April 20, 2014

Dennis E. Hopkins

May 29, 2014

Iretta K. (Phipps) LaGasse

August 2, 2014

June M. Pommert

August 17, 2014

Robin L. Page

September 8, 2014

1950s

Betty Magers, '52

May 22, 2014

1960s

Kathleen J. Moffett, '69

April 18, 2014

Roy G. Black, '69

June 29, 2014

1970s

Ronald B. Kime, '70

September 7, 2014

Richard Johnson, '71

April 25, 2014

Lewis E. Raines, Jr., '77

April 17, 2014

1980s

Martha "Marti" E. Baughman, '81

July 10, 2014

Nita Thornburgh, '81

August 4, 2014

Wayne E. House II, '87

April 3, 2014

Peggy J. Webb, '89

June 5, 2014

1990s

Todd W. Humbard, '93

June 4, 2014

Missouri Southern remembers faculty and friends

FRIENDS OF SOUTHERN

June Adair Maddy Blalock, of Joplin, Missouri, died on March 9, 2014. June was born June 30, 1917, in Joplin to James Nicholas and Lillian (Dudley) Maddy. She graduated from Joplin High School in 1934, earned an associate's degree in 1969, a bachelor's degree in management technology in 1976 and a bachelor's degree in computer science in 1986 from Missouri Southern State College. She married Paul Blalock on July 30, 1962; he died in 1966. She was employed by Safeway Stores Inc. from 1937-84, serving as district secretary for 10 district managers. She was active in many organizations, including a 54-year member of Azotus White Shrine of Jerusalem, Ruth Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, The Pilot Club Joplin and The Mable Hobson Draper Cancer Aid Association, Visions Unlimited, and a volunteer at Crosslines Ministries. She was a life-member of the Lantern Society of MSSU, the American Association of University Women, the Dorothea B. Hoover Foundation and the Joplin Museum Complex, serving 10 years as volunteering secretary to the Advisory Board of The Everett J. Ritchie Tri-State Mineral Museum. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband and sister, Dorothy Jean Maddy.

Edgar Biddle Freund, CLU/ChFC, of Carthage, Missouri, died March 27, 2014. Ed was born March 31, 1930, in Cole Camp, Missouri, to Roy and Mabel Freund. He grew up in Houstonia and Warsaw, where he graduated Salutatorian. He was a graduate of CMSU where he was voted

Most Popular Boy on Campus and named All Conference on the Mules 1952 basketball team. He served as sergeant in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict. He taught high school industrial education in Kansas City, Missouri, before starting with State Farm Insurance as an agent and district manager from 1960, until his death. In 1998, he was named to the CMSU Athletic Hall of Fame as part of the Mules 1951 Basketball Team. Ed volunteered for many civic and board activities, including UMB Bank, Broadview Country Club, Rotary Club, MSSU Booster Club, St. Luke's Nursing Home, Estate Planning Council ChFC, Investors Club and Carthage Police and Fire Pension Committee. He is survived by his wife, Tonya Freund, three brothers and a sister, a son and five daughters, 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Edward H. "Tony" August died March 28, 2014. Ed was born March 18, 1929, in Independence, Missouri, to Edward H. August Sr. and Mary Elizabeth (Morgan) August. He had lived in Joplin since 1958. He was a veteran of U.S. Army, serving as a cryptographer in Japan and Korea. He earned a general business degree from the University of Missouri and became a Certified Public Accountant. He practiced accounting at his Joplin business from 1972-2012, later merging with Baker, Davis and Roderique CPA, Joplin. He was a Mason since 1951 and belonged to Kiwanis, Roughnecks and Grand Lake Sailing Club. He served on the Board of Directors of the Missouri Southern Foundation from 2002-12. Ed married Sue (Susie) Speakman on October 5, 1963,

in Carl Junction. She survives. Additional survivors include two sons, a daughter and five grandchildren.

Jack Brannan of Kansas City, Missouri, an Oklahoma Hall of Fame journalist, died May 3, 2014, in Kansas City. He was born January 2, 1936, in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Harold Claude and Alma (George) Brannan. Jack began his career in journalism at the age of 16, one month after graduating from Rockhurst High School in Kansas City. He began work for *The Joplin Globe* and enrolled in Joplin Junior College. Jack was named Missouri Southern's Outstanding Alumnus in 2008 and was inducted as one of the first members of *The Chart Hall of Fame* in 2012. Jack's career in journalism spanned four decades from the 1950s to the 1980s and ranged across the United States and Latin America. For almost 20 years he was a reporter, sports writer, foreign correspondent, editor and management executive with the United Press International news agency. He joined UPI in Oklahoma City in 1958 after having worked for the *Tulsa World*, majoring in journalism at the University of Tulsa and then completing two years of Army duty. In 1964, Jack went to Washington, D.C., as a UPI White House and State Department correspondent and in 1965 was named news editor and chief correspondent at UPI's South American headquarters in Buenos Aires, Argentina, beginning a tour as a foreign correspondent during which he reported from countries throughout Latin America. In the 1970s he was an assistant foreign news editor and economic and business writer at UPI world

headquarters in New York City. He joined the New York Stock Exchange as manager of its news bureau and media communications department and returned to the newsroom in the late 1980s as an editor on the *Los Angeles Times* foreign news desk.

Madeline M. "Madge" Stinnett died June 17, 2014, in Joplin, Missouri. Madge was born May 26, 1923, in Joplin to Charles W. Campbell and Vinita Marie (Holt) Campbell and lived her lifetime in Joplin. She attended Joplin High School, Joplin Business College and Missouri Southern State University. She served as Assistant Corporate Secretary and Executive Secretary to the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of Mercantile (now US Bank) Bank, retiring in 1987 after 18 years. Madge was a member of Business and Professional Women, Executive Secretaries Association, National Association of Bank Women, MSSC Lantern Society and the Women's Division of the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce. She served on the Long-Range Planning Committee for Joplin School District. She was a member at First Baptist Church, where she served on committees and as adult Sunday school teacher for 11 years. She was a longtime volunteer for St. John's Auxiliary and First Baptist Church of Joplin office staff. On July 3, 1942, she married her husband of 56 years, Donovan G. (Don) Stinnett, in Joplin. He preceded her in death July 2, 1998. Survivors include a son, two grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, a brother, and many extended family and friends.

Dean Stuart Johnston died July 6, 2014, in Owasso, Oklahoma. He was born December 27, 1923, in Wausau, Wisconsin, to Chester Gibson and Georgia Laura Cramer Johnston. He graduated from Wausau High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin. He served as a U.S. Army Sergeant in post-World War II Germany. In 1950, he married Mary Ellen Nichols in Kansas City. He received a Juris Doctorate from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 1957 and was admitted to the Missouri Bar in 1959. Dean was associated with the Joplin law firm of Seiler, Blanchard Van Fleet, then Allstate Insurance in Kansas City and Wichita, Kansas. He retired from Western Casualty and Surety, Joplin, in 1986. He had his own law practice until 1993. He

was active in many organizations including the Wichita and Joplin Jaycees, the Ecumenical Campus Ministry at Missouri Southern State University, Jasper County Mental Health Funding Board, President of Big Brothers, member of the Joplin Habitat for Humanity, Joplin Community Concert and Area Agency on Aging Boards. He received local recognition from the Ozark Audubon Society for his assistance in the development of the Wildcat Glades Conservation Audubon Nature Center. He had been a nontraditional part-time student at MSSU and was a member of the MSSU Lantern Society. Dean was a member of Byers Avenue United Methodist Church in Joplin and First Presbyterian Church in Owasso. He was preceded in death by his parents and a grandson. Dean is survived by his wife of 63 years, his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, a brother, a cousin, and nieces and nephews.

Father John A. Brath died June 25, 2014, in Ozark, Missouri. Father Brath was born April 8, 1938, in Campbellsport, Wisconsin. Among his many other assignments, Father Brath served as chaplain at the Ecumenical Center on the campus of Missouri Southern State University. He joined the U.S. Air Force shortly after high school and worked as a chaplain's assistant. He attended Conception Abbey and Seminary in Conception, Missouri, and was ordained a priest on May 25, 1968, in the Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet, Illinois, for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. He served as a Catholic chaplain in the U.S. Air Force from 1971-74, earning the rank of captain. He was awarded the commendation medal of First Oak Leaf Cluster for his meritorious service. He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Frances (Fleischman) Brath, and a sister. He is survived by four brothers and two sisters.

FACULTY AND STAFF

Linglong Li of Carthage, Missouri, died June 4, 2014, in Branson, Missouri. Born September 6, 1988, in China, she received her bachelor's there and received her master's from Oklahoma City University, enabling her to teach English to students of other primary languages. She was an adjunct instructor at Missouri Southern. On September 18, 2013, she married Travis Shane Domanski in Joplin. Survivors include her husband, parents, two broth-

ers, and a sister, all of China. Linglong was adventurous and enjoyed the outdoors, kayaking and hiking.

Linda Diane Garrison Buckley of Appleton City, Missouri, formerly of Joplin, died June 12, 2014, at her home. Linda was born May 19, 1962, in Joplin to Charlotte Spencer Garrison and William H. Garrison. She attended school in Independence, Missouri, and Carl Junction, Missouri, before graduating from Carl Junction High School in 1980. She worked for Missouri Southern State University in food service for several years before moving to Butler, Missouri, in 2004. She had attended Carl Junction Nazarene Church. She was preceded in death by her mother and a brother. Survivors include her son, granddaughter, father and stepmother, a brother and an uncle.

Elizabeth Ann Ford died July 27, 2014, in Joplin, Missouri. Elizabeth was born June 7, 1955, in Joplin, to Albert and Hulda (Quade) Hamm. She was a lifetime area resident. She graduated from Parkwood High School in 1973 and from Missouri Southern with a bachelor's in biology in 1977. She worked as a graphic designer at MSSU for 15 years, and previously at Freeman and Oak Hill Hospitals. She was a lifetime member of Immanuel Lutheran Church. She loved working outdoors, bird watching, hiking, photography and was a talented artist. She was an avid dog lover and owner. She is survived by her daughter, granddaughter, three brothers, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, and a sister.

Irma Jean Hartley of Joplin, Missouri, died August 30, 2014. She was born January 8, 1927, in Harrisburg, Illinois, to Cressa and Beatrice Burroughs Langford. She married Charles C. Hartley on April 17, 1948, and he preceded her in death on September 2, 1985. Irma received her RN diploma from Michael Reese Hospital School of Nursing in 1948. She was an RN for St. John's Hospital and for 23 years was the Campus Nurse for Missouri Southern State College. She was a member of Fellowship Baptist Church of Joplin. She was also preceded in death by a daughter, a brother, and three sisters. She is survived by a son, two daughters, 12 grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

— In memoriam current as of September 15, 2014

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